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BOOKS P.12 Alanbrooke: Portrait of a patriot

PROPERTY P.10 Hever Castle: At home with Lord Astor

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Jamaican couple win damages

A Jamaican couple were awarded £51,392 damages by a High Court judge who said they have been subjected to a "catalogue of violence and inhuman treatment by young officers."

Mr Justice Mars-Jones awarded the damages to David and Lucille White following an incident five years ago in which they were beaten by police who "unlawfully invaded" their North London home.

The court heard that the couple had suffered multiple injuries at the hands of 17 officers. Scotland Yard is to study the evidence before deciding if any action should be taken against them.

Poles 'to ease martial law'

Several hundred interned Poles will be released in the next week as part of a relaxation of martial law, the Polish ambassador to Sweden said. Polish authorities said there have been 220 cases of "sabotage and diversionary acts" including 76 damaged machines in factories and 10 explosions since martial law was imposed.

Move on Militants

Prospects of the Labour Party expelling groups such as Militant Tendency increased after the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers voted to press for reintroduction of the party's list of proscribed organisations. Back Page

Fares Bill fails

The second reading on the private member's Bill to let Greater London Council subsidise bus and tube fares out of rates was adjourned. This means it is unlikely to progress further, GLC warned, Page 3

Provos to stand

Provisional Sinn Fein, the Provisional IRA political wing, is to contest elections for the proposed Northern Ireland assembly, expected to be held in the autumn.

Murder charges

Seven youths appeared in private at Glasgow Sheriff Court accused of murdering schoolboy football fan Alexander Linton on Wednesday.

Syria retaliates

Syria ordered out two French diplomats, a military attache and second secretary, in retaliation to France's expulsion of Syrian diplomats following a bomb blast in Paris.

El Salvador head

El Salvador's right-wing political parties voted in the leader of the ultra-rightist alliance, Roberto D'Aubuisson, to head the new Constituent Assembly.

Briefly . . .

Bill Stubbs is to succeed Peter Newsam as Chief Education Officer for the Inner London Education Authority.

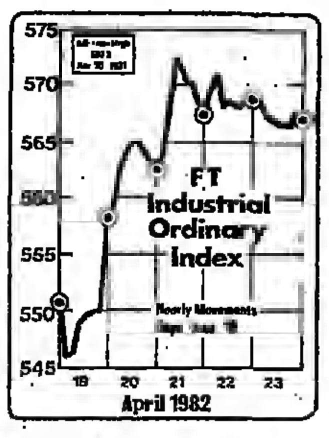
Texas banker Joe Allbritton has broken off talks to buy the New York Daily News.

Nobel Prize awards have gone up to £110,200 to cover inflation.

BUSINESS

Equities off 1.9; gold up $8.25

● EQUITIES: the FT 30-share index closed 1.9 down at 567.1. Page 24



● GILTS: the Government Securities Index closed 0.06 off at 67.61, but was 1.11 up on the week. Page 24

● WALL STREET was 3.71 up at 856.83 near the close. Page 20

● STERLING fell 50 points on the day to close in London at $1.7715. It dropped to DM 4.23 (DM 4.2625); SwFr 3.485 (SwFr 3.5); FFr 11.045 (FFr 11.09) and Y427.5 (Y431.5). Its trade-weighted index slid to 89.8 (90.2). Page 23

● DOLLAR slipped to DM 2.387 (DM 2.3975) and Y241.3 (Y242.8), but rose to SwFr 1.969 (SwFr 1.9685). Its trade-weighted index fell to 114.9 (115.4). Page 23

● GOLD rose $8.25 in London to $352.5. Page 21

● MARKHEATH SECURITIES, a North London property company, is likely to be the first member of the Unlisted Securities Market to obtain a full quotation on the London Stock Exchange. Back Page

● SOUTH AFRICAN Government is to force the mining industry to end exclusive contracts for purchase of explosives from AECI, jointly owned by ICI and Anglo American Industrial Corporation. Back Page

● WORKERS at Redpath Dorman Long, the British Steel Corporation's heavy engineering subsidiary, will hold a one-day strike on Monday to protest against the sale of the company to the Trafalgar House Group. Page 4

● CIVIL SERVANTS were awarded pay increases of 4.75-6.25 per cent by an arbitration tribunal, subject to government approval. Back Page

● LEADERS of BL Cars 11 manual unions signed a bargaining agreement with the company. Page 4

COMPANIES

● PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE wants to sell Central Cross, the office and shops complex in London's Tottenham Court Road, for about £45m. Back Page

● PENTOS, the industrial holding company, has sold its greenhouse and garden equipment businesses for £3.4m in a management buy-out. Page 18

● RICHARDSON WESTGARTH, the engineering and stockholding group, reported a pre-tax loss of £833,000 for last year compared with a profit of £746,000. Page 18

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES

...rit & Commnn.	412	+ 10
...aledonia Invs.	382	+ 15
...woods	290	+ 6
...awker Siddeley	324	+ 8
...ntos	14	+ 2
...essey	377	+ 7
...unnelson Film	160	+ 25
...theby P. B.	350	+ 30
...ylo	123	+ 18
...lbury Group	402	+ 7
...	320	+ 8
...rless Capel	183	+ 7
...ckson Expl.	104	+ 10
...ell Transport	416	+ 14
...tramar	433	+ 16
...M	23	+ 3
Oakbridge	80	+ 10
Peko-Wallsend	292	+ 22
Poseidon	112	+ 8
Swan Resources	45	+ 10
Venterspost	386	+ 33
Western Mining	240	+ 11

FALLS

Bowater	228	− 9
General Accident	292	− 6
Great Portland Est.	170	− 6
Land Securities	281	− 7
Lyle Shipping	232	− 13
Owen Owen	160	− 10
Royal Insurance	323	− 7
Solicitors Law	28	− 2
Tate & Lyle	202	− 6
NCC Energy	55	− 8

Britons warned to leave Argentina

BY REGINALD DALE IN WASHINGTON AND MARGARET VAN HATTEM IN LONDON

THE GOVERNMENT issued a strong warning yesterday to British nationals to leave Argentina, fuelling speculation that the British task force may be called into action at any moment.

In Washington, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Alexander Haig, the U.S. Secretary of State, appeared to be making little headway in their renewed efforts to devise a formula for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

In London, the Foreign Office said it would send a warning to British nationals living in Argentina, to be broadcast three times a night for the next three nights on the BBC World Service, advising them to leave the country by normal commercial transport.

The message says the task force is approaching the Falklands area and predicts a period of "increasing tension and risks" for all British citizens in Argentina.

Mr Pym said after a series of meetings with Mr Haig that serious difficulties remained and the only sign of progress was that a deep exploration of possible solutions had taken place.

He was to continue his talks with Mr Haig later in the day and return to London last night after two days in Washington.

Mr Pym said he thought international pressure on Argentina was "having its effect" but it was hardly surprising that it was difficult to reconcile the British and Argentine positions in view of Argentina's insistence that its aggression must be rewarded.

He reaffirmed his determination to seek a peaceful solution "if humanly possible" but said Britain would not shrink from the use of force if necessary. Mr Pym said he would welcome new ways of putting pressure on Buenos Aires "if I can think of any."

Mr Pym said it was up to Mr Haig to decide whether to continue his shuttle mission with another visit to Buenos Aires. While there was still life in Mr Haig's mission he entirely favoured continuing it, Mr Pym said.

However, Mr Pym declined to set any deadline for a diplomatic solution and said the aim of the Washington talks was not to agree on joint Anglo-American proposals to put to Buenos Aires. British officials said Mr Haig was trying to steer a middle course between the British and Argentine proposals on the table.

Mr Pym said increased pressure on Argentina would help, but this could not be applied while Washington was at the centre of negotiations.

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Falkland crisis, Page 2

STERLING UP AGAINST DOLLAR

Sterling rose slightly yesterday against a generally weaker dollar, but lost ground to major Continental currencies. The markets were generally lack-lustre and nervous about the Falklands crisis.

The pound finished in London 1.05 cents higher at $1.7715, but fell to 89.8 from 90.2 on the basis of its trade weighted index.

Interest rates on the London money market were little changed compared with Thursday, but were lower than last week. Reflecting this the average discount rate at the weekly Treasury bill tender fell to 12.89 per cent from 13.20 per cent.

Fleet prepares for confrontation

BY BRIDGET BLOOM, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S NAVAL task force yesterday went on defence stations—a state of readiness second only to action stations—as it headed into the South Atlantic and possible confrontation with Argentina's armed forces.

There were persistent reports that the fleet was in combat range of the Falkland Islands, and that part of the force had been ordered to recapture the islands of South Georgia, 800 miles from the Falklands.

However, the Ministry of Defence in London would only say, at its regular midday briefing of defence correspondents yesterday, that "the task force has not landed anywhere." The statement was repeated during the day.

The Ministry has consistently refused to comment on the position of the task force, or on its tactics, and it did so again yesterday. It noted that the *position of Argentina's fleet* was the same as it had been earlier in the week—mostly at sea but near the Argentine coast and outside the British 200-mile maritime exclusion zone proclaimed round the Falklands nearly two weeks ago.

The position of the task force, led by the aircraft carriers HMS Hermes and Invincible, was last night variously estimated at between 500 and 1,500 miles off the Falklands.

Suggestions that it might be in range of Argentine fighter aircraft were given weight when the Defence Ministry confirmed that all the ships in the force were on defence stations.

The full complement of the force as announced by the Defence Ministry is 16 warships, 12 Royal Fleet auxiliary support ships and 35 requisitioned or chartered commercial vessels.

However, these are not all in the South Atlantic yet. The container ship Atlantic Conveyor, *for example*, left the UK only yesterday and will not load its additional Harrier fighters and Chinook helicopters until it is further south.

Intense speculation that the task force might have been ordered to recapture South Georgia as its first task was fuelled by reports yesterday that naval commanders with the task force are worried about their lack of air cover.

Some naval officers are said to have told Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, indirectly that it would be difficult to establish an effective air blockade of the Falklands with the 20 or so Sea Harriers on the carriers.

Argentina has fewer carrier-based aircraft than the task force, but it has more than 60 shore-based fighters, including 20 supersonic Mirage IIIs.

The Defence Ministry said yesterday that it did not know of any such representations being made formally or informally to the Prime Minister or to Mr John Nott, *the Defence Secretary.*

Clash over Lonrho's Israel plan

BY JOHN MOORE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

LONRHO, the controversial trading conglomerate headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, is set for a major battle with its large Arab *shareholder*, Gulf Fisheries, over Mr Rowland's business plans in Israel.

The row was sparked off by Mr Rowland's visit to Israel this week to discuss with the Israeli Government possible ventures in electronics, aviation and oil exploration.

Gulf Fisheries, a substantial Kuwaiti investment company controlled by Sheikh Nasser al Sabah al Ahmed, a member of the Kuwaiti ruling family, is already *embattled with Lonrho* on another front. Gulf, which holds 15 per cent of Lonrho's shares, is opposed to Lonrho increasing its borrowing limits under its articles of association to £1.5bn.

In London yesterday, representatives of the Kuwaitis regarded the move by Lonrho to consider investing in Israel as a deliberate attempt to force Gulf to sell its shares. Mr Tom Ferguson, the London representative of Gulf Fisheries, said talks with Israel "are beyond the bounds of coincidence. I think it is an attempt to cause us to cease being a shareholder in Lonrho."

The Kuwaitis are considering legal advice "to see whether there is a case which we can bring against Lonrho directors jointly or severally under the companies legislation since they seem to be taking steps to get Lonrho on the Arab boycott list through trading with Israel."

Lonrho responded in a relaxed way. Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, contemptuously dismissed the Kuwaiti view.

In Israel yesterday, government representatives were saying there was a good chance that deals would go through with Lonrho. It is understood that the Israeli energy minister was in London recently to mobilise private funds for energy projects in Israel.

As the row simmered yesterday between Gulf and Lonrho, Gulf Fisheries took legal action against Lonrho to obtain the group's register of shareholders. It wants the names and addresses of Lonrho shareholders to send them a circular detailing its *opposition* to Lonrho's plans for increasing its borrowing limits.

A High Court judge, Mr Justice Dillon, yesterday granted an ex-parte injunction to Gulf Fisheries giving Lonrho until midnight to deliver the register to them.

Counsel for Gulf said that Gulf had demanded a poll, due to take place next Friday, of all shareholders on Lonrho's plans to increase its borrowing limits. The request for the register had been made to Lonrho on April 13 and Lonrho had had 10 days to comply. The 10 days was due to end yesterday evening but no copy had been received, he said.

He argued there was a strong suspicion that, rather than make a hand delivery yesterday, Lonrho had delayed as long as possible and intended to post the copy, so that it would not be received until Monday at the earliest.

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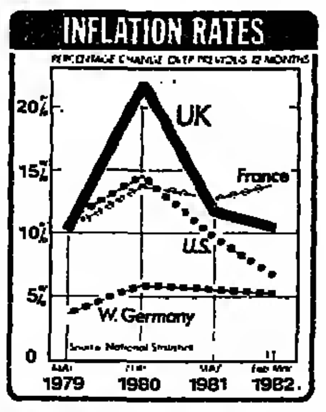
For latest Share Index phone 01-246 8026

Welcome news for Reagan and Thatcher



Fall in U.S. consumer price index

By Reginald Dale in Washington

THE CONTINUING sharp decline in the U.S. inflation rate was dramatically highlighted yesterday by a drop of 0.3 per cent in the consumer price index for March. It is the first time the index has fallen in 17 years, and the largest decline since a fall of 0.4 per cent in 1953. The overall index was 6.8 per cent higher than in March last year.

The Labour Department said that, in the first three months of the year, consumer prices had been increasing at a compound annual rate of 1 per cent. If the March figure were repeated over a year, prices would drop by 3.3 per cent, the department said.

These low figures are not expected to be maintained when the predicted recovery begins in the second half of the year. Earlier this week, Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, forecast an increase in the index over the year of around 6 per cent, against 8.9 per cent in 1981.

Three major components of the index—transport, housing and food and beverages—declined in March and petrol prices were down by 4 per cent.

The drop was welcomed as good news by the White House—although the much quicker than expected decline in inflation has thrown out the Administration's original 1983 budget calculations. Lower than expected tax receipts on incomes and profits are reducing revenues estimates and boosting the likely deficit.

Continued on Back Page

Single-figure inflation expected by summer

BY DAVID MARSH

THE ANNUAL rate of retail price inflation fell last month to 10.4 per cent, the lowest since the Government came to office three years ago.

With price rises still slowing as a result of cheaper oil, and the firm pound and only moderate indirect tax increases in last month's Budget, inflation looks almost certain to be in single figures within two months.

The latest interest rate—around the average of industrialised countries—is less than half the 21.9 per cent peak in May 1980.

The Department of Employment announced yesterday a 0.9 per cent rise in the retail price index last month to 313.4 (January 1974 = 100). The index was unchanged in February, when the year-on-year increase was 11 per cent.

Underlining the abatement of inflationary pressures over the past few months, prices of all items except seasonal foods—which give the best indication of the underlying rate—have risen during the past six months at an annual rate of only 7.2 per cent.

The lack of large-scale price increases in the pipeline, together with this month's drop in mortgage rates, should bring a dip in the inflation rate to below 10 per cent in April or May.

The last time inflation was in single figures was during the last months of the Labour Government. Announcing yesterday that "single-figure inflation is within our grasp," Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, said: "Still more important than the actual figure, this has been managed without artificial controls on prices and wages." He told a pension fund conference in Bournemouth: "The indications suggest that inflation will continue to moderate, giving us the best prospects for prices for nearly a decade."

The Treasury in its Budget forecast is predicting an inflation rate of 9 per cent by the end of the year. Although a drop to the 9 to 10 per cent range may take place fairly smoothly by the early summer, the Government will face difficulty in achieving further progress. This will depend crucially on wage settlements remaining moderate in spite of the economic upturn, and on sterling staying reasonably firm on the foreign exchanges.

A key factor behind the inflation slowdown has been the Treasury's decision to make relatively modest indirect tax increases in last month's Budget. These will add a total 0.8 per cent to the retail price index, against the 2 per cent rise in last year's Budget.

About half the Budget increases on drink, petrol, tobacco and vehicle licences came through in the index for last month. The rest will appear in the April index to be published in a month.

The March index was also boosted by price rises for fruit and vegetables and newspapers.

Apart from the remainder of the Budget increases, rises in rates will boost the April index by 0.75 per cent, while higher local authority rents and the increase in London Transport fares will add 0.6 and 0.3 per cent respectively.

Small increases for gas, electricity, petrol and seasonal food are also in the pipeline. But these will be more than offset by the effect of this month's cut in mortgage rates.

The increase in prices in April last year of 2.9 per cent will drop out of the year-on-year calculation next month, ensuring another fall in the annual rate to around 10 per cent.

The Central Statistical Office yesterday announced the latest rise in the tax and price index, designed to show the effects of tax changes as well as prices on the cost of living. This showed a rise of 13.7 per cent over the 12 months to March, compared with the annual rate in February of 14.4 per cent.

Lex, Back Page

£ in New York

—	April 22	Previous
Spot	$1.7755-7770	$1.7785-7800
1 month	0.23-0.28 pm	0.20-0.25 pm
3 months	0.69-0.72 pm	0.61-0.68 pm
12 months	1.90-2.00 pm	1.88-2.03 pm

OVERSEAS NEWS

Honda agrees to give UAW bargaining rights

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

HONDA, which is due to open the first Japanese car plant in the U.S., has agreed to allow its blue collar employees to be organised by the United Autoworkers Union. This marks a reversal of its earlier opposition and its acceptance of the power wielded by the union.

Officially, Honda has restated its neutrality on the union issue, but the UAW said yesterday that they viewed this as a shift in the company's policy, which was designed to discourage unionisation and make life difficult for the UAW by, among other things, banning union emblems. In return the UAW has agreed to drop unfair labour practice charges which it had levelled against the company.

Honda is building a $20m motor assembly plant in Ohio which is due for completion at the end of this year. The plant will employ over 2,000 people and turn out about 150,000 cars a year.

Honda had opposed unionisation because it would force the company to adopt U.S. wage scales, which are over 50 per cent higher than those in Japan. However, the union recently agreed to hold down wage increases at other major U.S. car makers, to bring production costs closer to the Japanese and this may have provided some reassurance to Honda.

The UAW had also taken a tough stand against Honda companies and threatened to call for a boycott of its products unless it was admitted to the plant. Volkswagen, the only other major foreign car producer in the U.S., has accepted unionisation at its plant in Pennsylvania.

The focus now shifts to Nissan, which is building a car plant in Tennessee. The Honda settlement makes it all the more likely that the UAW will be admitted as bargaining agents there as well.

AP-DJ adds from Chicago: As the UAW concluded three weeks of talks on a new contract with International Harvester, a new agreement seemed likely soon, a union negotiator said.

Harvester seeks new talks, Page 21

Anti-trust probes into two top U.S. groups

BY PAUL BETTS IN NEW YORK

BOEING, the leading U.S. aircraft manufacturer, and Procter and Gamble, the giant of the household products industry, are both being investigated by staff members of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for alleged breaches of U.S. anti-trust laws.

The disclosure of the two investigations, which were started more than a year ago, appears to be largely a political manoeuvre to put pressure on the commission to reverse its recent decision to trim down the number of its regional offices.

The separate anti-trust investigations against Boeing and Procter and Gamble are being conducted by FTC staff in the Seattle and Boston regional offices. These are among four out of 10 regional bureaux that the commission plans to close as part of the Reagan Administration's programme for scaling down the size of Government agencies.

The Boeing investigation centres on allegations that the aerospace company imposed certain anti-competitive restraints on its customers and suppliers in the manufacture and sale of aircraft spare parts.

The FTC staff investigators in Seattle have so far made no recommendation that the Commission issue a complaint against Boeing.

The Proctor and Gamble investigation is being conducted by the FTC's Boston office. It involves allegations that the company was in collusion with conventional retailers against discount drug stores

Tough security ordered after Paris blast

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

THE French Government is to tighten frontier controls and put political exiles under closer surveillance as part of an emergency plan to stamp out the growing threat of terrorism.

Announcing these measures yesterday, M Gaston Defferre, Interior Minister and acting Prime Minister in the absence of M Pierre Mauroy in Canada, said the new methods to be employed by the security forces would be "tough, calm and determined."

M Defferre's statement was made after what he described as a small "council of war" had been assembled by President Francois Mitterrand to examine Thursday's bomb blast in central Paris. The explosion killed a woman pedestrian and seriously injured another 13, and about 60 people were injured.

The bombing, at 9 am, not far from a school off the Champs-Elysees, has traumatised France. The media have given the incident blanket coverage, relating it to a series of other bombings over the past few months.

The Government's new anti-terrorist measures mark a stiffening in its attitude following a wave of under-cover bombings, and is partly designed to ward off criticism. Some of the right-wing opposition have used Thursday's bombing as an opportunity to attack the Government's law and order policy, and there has been dissension between hawks and doves in the cabinet on the issue.

M Defferre, who has emerged as a strong supporter of tough policing, including random identity checks, stressed yesterday that everything possible would be done to prevent the "spilling of blood" in France. He added that he did not regret the decision to expel two Syrian diplomats within hours of the bomb going off.

A Foreign Ministry statement has since emphasised that the Syrians were not necessarily implicated in the bombing. It has, however, become clear that the police anti-terrorist squad had been keeping a close watch on the two diplomats. The authorities were apparently aware that a Syrian commando unit had recently arrived in the country.

Syrian involvement in the bombing is suspected because of a series of conflicts that have emerged between the two countries. These include President Mitterrand's visit to Israel, last year's murder of the French Ambassador to the Lebanon, for which the Syrian secret service has been blamed in some reports, and the screening on French television this week of a report on the Beirut killing.

The bomb exploded in front of the offices of the pro-Iraqi newspaper Al-Watan Al-Arabi, which is noted for its hostility to the present Syrian regime.

Police inquiries are complicated, however, by the fact that Carlos, the international terrorist who once held oil ministers to ransom, has been threatening action in France.

Following the capture of two of his close associates by the police here in February, he has threatened to assassinate M Defferre, and is still demanding their release. He is also one of the suspects for the explosion on the Paris-Toulouse train last month in which five passengers died.

Romania wins IMF approval

By Anatole Kaletsky in Washington

ROMANIA has successfully completed negotiations with the International Monetary Fund on re-opening an SDR 1.1bn standby credit facility which Romania has been prevented from using since November last year.

The IMF staff are recommending that Romania be allowed to draw one third, or SDR 330m of the facility during the current year and their recommendation is likely to be aproved by the executive board before the summer.

The standby arrangement was originaly negotiated in June last year, but drawings were abruptly stopped in November because of Romania's failure to meet the performance criteria set by the IMF.

Only SDR 140m of the credit had been drawn by then and it has not yet been decided how much of the undrawn part of the first year's facility will now be released. Past practice is that undrawn amounts of standby facilities are released either in one instalment or in equal tranches over the remaining years of the standby arrangement.

The problem which led to Romania's facility being interrupted was the accumulation of arrears on the country's external debts. Since November, IMF officials have been in constant touch with Bucharest and have now concluded that there has been substantial progress in three key areas of Romania's economic performance.

Romania's current account deficit with countries outside the Comecon area in 1981 was approximately $800m, much lower than the target set by the IMF.

ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FROM SINAI

A 'depressing and degrading end'

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL WILL complete its withdrawal from Sinai tomorrow in a sombre mood. This contrasts sharply with the exultation felt three years ago following the signing of the country's first peace treaty with an Arab state.

The fact that no other Arab country followed the path of the late President Anwar Sadat and that he was assassinated for having betrayed the Arab cause, has dimmed Israeli hopes, kindled by the former Egyptian leader, that it could finally find peace with all its neighbours after three decades of war.

The apprehension of Israelis over the depth of the commitment of Egypt under President Hosni Mubarak to the peace process initiated by his predecessor was dramatically demonstrated by the extraordinary violence and destruction in north eastern Sinai during the past week.

Israeli soldiers and civilians clashed repeatedly as the army evicted opponents of the peace treaty from house after house in the Jewish settlements in Sinai. Giant bulldozers moved in their wake knocking down the homes constructed in the sand.

This is the third and final stage of the Israeli return of Sinai to Egypt. Previous withdrawals were marked by joint handover ceremonies at which both sides celebrated.

But this Sunday there will be no pomp or circumstance on the Israeli side, no fluttering flags, honour guards or cheering crowds. Apart from a modest, early morning flag lowering ceremony at Ophira, beside Sharm el Sheikh at the southern tip of the peninsula, Israel has no plans to celebrate the conclusion of the third stage of the peace agreement.

As though avoiding some shameful act the Israeli army will be quietly withdrawn from Sinai by noon, leaving the Egyptians alone to celebrate the return of their lands lost in the 1967 war.

The only step planned by the Government to mark the occasion will be a televised address to the nation tomorrow evening by Mr Menahem Begin, the Prime Minister. He is expected to appeal for an end to the national discord which marked the last days of Israeli rule in Sinai and to call for unity in the face of pressures the country can now expect to face over the Palestinian issue.

Israel yesterday completed its "scorched earth" operations in the Yamit urban settlement, after it evicted the last few dozen opponents of the peace process perched atop a war memorial and locked inside an underground bunker.

Bulldozers and cranes continued to knock down the houses in the town during the morning. In the afternoon 70 explosions rocked the area as army sappers blew up the underground bomb shelters and other buildings which the bulldozers had no time to destroy.

As the Jewish Sabbath was ushered in on Friday evening the drifting sands of the Sinai were already moving in to cover up the ruins of Yamit and more than a dozen smaller agricultural settlements

Criticism of this act of destruction has begun to grow within the country. The week-end editions of the local papers carried articles and cartoons questioning what sort of peace it is which requires whole villages and towns to be wiped off the face of the earth.

Mr Amos Elion, a noted Israeli author and journalist, writing in yesterday's Haaretz described it as a ritualistic "auto da fe" which contradicted and harmed the spirit of the peace agreement.

"You destroy a house or uproot a tree so that it will not fall into the hands of an enemy. But here we destroyed an oasis in the desert so that it won't fall into the hands of some one we want to be a friend," Mr Eilon wrote. "It is difficult to imagine such an awful, depressing and degrading end."

● Troops use rescue ladder to remove Jewish settlers from a war memorial in Yamit

Tripartite talks in Cairo end without agreement

NEGOTIATIONS between *Israel, Egypt and the U.S.* on unresolved problems concerning Israel's final withdrawal *from Sinai broke* up *in Cairo* without agreement yesterday, writes Charles Richards in Cairo.

Mr Walter Stoessel (the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, said after six hours of talks that they hoped to have an agreement finalised by noon on Sunday. *This is just* an hour and a half before the Egyptian flag is due to be hoisted on the *eastern third* of Sinai for the first time since Israel captured the peninsula in *the* 1967 war.

The discussions did not focus on the border demarcation dispute at Taba, south of Eilat, but *on the* procedural steps to resolve it.

Egyptian officials have said *publicly that the border dispute* is merely a technical matter. Privately many of *them attach far greater significance* to it. They say that the failure of Israel to withdraw *from what* they claim is Egyptian territory would set a dangerous precedent.

Not only would it be embarrassing in the Arab world for them to surrender territory to Israel, it would also be taken as an interpretation of United Nations resolution 242. This calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied during the 1967 war, but argument has raged over whether this should mean all territory.

Survival for Schmidt—but no victory

By Jonathan Carr in Munich

HERR HELMUT SCHMIDT, the West German Chancellor, faces an uphill struggle to hold his strained coalition government together, despite winning some key battles at the congress of his Social Democrat Party (SPD) which ended here yesterday.

Major disasters for Herr Schmidt were avoided in votes on Nato strategy and domestic nuclear power. But a congress call for higher taxation portends further problems with the liberal Free Democrat FDP coalition partners in Bonn.

In its most tensely-awaited decision, the SPD voted on Thursday night against Left wing motions rejecting Nato's "arm and negotiate" policy on intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Herr Schmidt had made clear he would resign if these motions had been adopted.

But the resolution formally adopted leaves at least a question mark over future SPD readiness to accept new missiles on West German soil, if superpower negotiations break down.

Similarly, the congress rejected a motion demanding that all new nuclear power station construction be halted for two years. But the vote was close, and the motion approved makes it clear that the SPD wants to see atomic power play, at most, a residual role in the country's energy plan.

In terms of domestic politic repercussions, probably the gravest action of the congress was its call both for an increase in various taxes and not to carry through some tax cuts which the government has already half-promised. Little if any of this will be carried out. The FDP does not share the SPD's view that higher taxes will boost revenue and investment and so create jobs. The liberals will therefore firmly oppose the proposed measures.

However, by taking this stand the SPD runs a grave risk of being seen as "the tax increase party" at a time when its popularity is, in any case, very low. Opinion polls give the party little more than 30 per cent of the popular vote—and there are two major provincial elections coming up in the next five months.

During the congress the SPD leadership constantly appealed for solidarity and an end to internal wrangling. By and large the delegates complied, but it will be hard for the party to stay united when constant compromise will be needed with the FDP—above all over the budget, where a new savings effort seems needed.

Herr Schmidt's immediate task is to carry through a cabinet re-shuffle involving finding a replacement for Herr Hans Matthoefer, the Finance Minister, who is stepping down on health grounds.

THE FALKLANDS CRISIS

Nervousness shows as British warships draw near

BY ANDREW WHITLEY, IN BUENOS AIRES

THE IMMINENT arrival of the British naval task force in the waters around the Falkland Islands has raised the temperature considerably in the Argentine capital, with fears that war could break out at almost any moment.

Following U.S. intelligence reports that the British fleet has divided into two, with one group of vessels heading straight for the South Georgia archipelago, yesterday's Clarin, the mass circulation daily, said that the warships could be at the Georgias by the evening.

Clarin quoted Argentine officials in Rio Galleos, the southern port and military base, as saying that several destroyers and frigates have broken away from the main fleet. The report was based on information gained during Wednesday's reconnaissance flight over the British task force by an Argentine Air Force Boeing 707.

According to estimates of the speed of the remaining main body of the fleet, the Hermes-led group should arrive in the region of the Falklands themselves by tomorrow evening.

Argentine air force squadrons along the southern coastline are said to be on a state of full alert and military officials say that reconnaissance flights will probably continue.

Argentine officials yesterday reassured the public that no military action by Britain is likely before Tuesday, after the meeting in Washington of the Organisation of American States (OAS). The OAS is meeting at Argentina's request to consider invoking the 1947 Treaty requiring members to come to each others defence in the event of an external attack.

A leading commentator in yesterday's La Prensa, the Conservativa daily, warned that "the time has past for negotiations. The moment has come to take up arms to defend ourselves and our rights." He added that: "At moments like these it does not matter if the country is defeated by superior forces. What is important is that the country assumes its responsibilities and fights to the end."

Despite the bellicose tenor of this article, Buenos Aires remains calm, with few signs of the war preparations now common place in the major towns of Patagonia in the south. Nerves are nevertheless beginning to fray.

●THE National Union of *Journalists* has written to President Leopoldo Galtieri of Argentina asking him to intervene *to secure the release of* three British journalists.

Tha three NUJ members—Simon Winchester, of the Sunday Times, and Tony Prime and Ian Mather, of the *Observer*, have been held for more than a week in the southern town of Ushuaia on suspicion of *spying*.

In his letter, deputy general secretary of the NUJ, Mr Jacob Ecclestone, described the *three* men as "journalists of great experience and distinction" whose bona-fides could not seriously be doubted.

Mr Ecclestone said it was "of the utmost importance that the people of the Argentine and Britain should know what is happening" and "that information about our two countries should be freely exchanged."

The *Brussels-based* International Federation of Journalists has also written to General Galtieri on behalf of the three, protesting at their detention.

Pope John Paul told an Argentine Government delegation yesterday he hoped for a solution to the Falklands crisis based on international law and without the use of force, Reuter reports from the Vatican City.

The Pope was speaking to representatives of the Argentine and Chilean Governments called to bear proposals on their territorial dispute over three islands in the Beagle Channel at the southern tip of South America.

Flight of dollars to Argentina

By David Lascelles In New York

ARGENTINA IS withdrawing millions of dollars a day from banks in the U.S. and flying the *banknotes* to *Buenos* Aires to meet a surge in demand for hard currency created by *the* Falkland Islands crisis.

Bankers said in New York *yesterday that the withdrawals* began soon after the crisis flared and that regular shipments were now leaving Kennedy airport. The shipments consisted mostly of large denomination bills.

One banker estimated that the shipments were running at the rate of $90m to $100m a week, double the normal flow of currency to Argentina.

Bankers also noted that demand for $100 bills had been specially strong since the invasion.

There are no restrictions on the export of currency from the U.S., and the Federal Reserve has done nothing to curb the flow. However, the *Fed* has had to supply extra notes to banks for shipping to Argentina.

The funds are being withdrawn from the accounts that Argentine banks have in the U.S. The *accounts* are *both* at U.S. banks and the U.S. operations of foreign banks, including at least one British bank which has been involved in the shipments.

The freeze which the UK imposed on Argentinian assets does not extend to assets in the foreign branches of UK banks.

The *outflow* has been mainly through New York, but bankers believe that some of the money has been leaving through Miami, which has become an important staging post in the U.S.-Latin American commerce

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Move to ease pressure on banks

BY JIMMY BURNS IN BUENOS AIRES

THE ARGENTINE central bank yesterday announced a half percentage point reduction in the minimum reserve requirment of banks.

The *move is aimed* at removing the pressures on the financial system provoked by a dramatic withdrawal of deposits by the public during the Falklands crisis.

The announcement has fuelled scepticism surrounding the pledge made by Dr Roberto Alemann, the Economy Minister, earlier this week that his *economic programme* remained essentially intact in spite of the conflict with Britain.

The Ministry's money supply target for the month of April—originally expected to be backed by an increase of 1.5 percentage points in the minimum reserve requirement—is now no longer realistic. This is expected to undermine Sr Alemann's attempts to reduce inflation this year from 131 per cent to double figures.

Last week Sr Alemann was forced to cede to pressure from the banking community by announcing an emergency package of measures, including a one percentage point reduction in the minimum reserve requirement and a doubling of rediscount margins.

But in spite of a brief lull, widespread withdrawal of deposits from the financial system resumed on Tuesday. Panic public reaction is being stimulated by fears of impending war with Britain and rumours that the Government might soon freeze assets.

The latest heavy withdrawal appears to have been linked with the announcement on Wednesday of a decreed law restricting repatriation of profits, dividends and similar service payments.

However, the fate of the country's largest finance house, Rio Parana, does not appear to be linked to recent developments. Rio Parana was declared in liquidation on Thursday after intervention by the central bank last week.

Banking officials said that the finance house had been in difficulties for several months and had been suspected of breaking Central Bank credit rules. Rio Parana's deposits will be guaranteed by the Central Bank according to financial law.

Rio Parana had deposits of 1,125bn pesos (£54m) on December 31 last year.

Meanwhile, police in Buenos Aires appear to be launching a crackdown on suspected violators of foreign exchange controls imposed in the wake of the Falklands invasion three weeks ago.

Raids have been taking place on foreign exchange houses and on the local office of Merryll Lynch, the major U.S. stock-broking company, according to Noticias Argentinas, the independent news agency.

No confirmation was immediately available from the Finance Ministry, but according to the agency the Ministry acknowledged yesterday that Merryll Lynch's offices had been raided by police. Under present exchange controls, dollar sales are banned until further notice, although purchases are allowed.

OVERSEAS NEWS

U.S. FOOD IMPORTS DEMAND

Japanese farmers demonstrate

BY RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

THOUSANDS OF Japanese farmers marched peacefully by the U.S. embassy in Tokyo yesterday in a mass demonstration of opposition to American demands for liberalisation of farm imports.

Carrying banners and placards, they waved and chanted, some in English: "No more oranges, no more beef." Those two items have become the focus of the Japan-U.S. agricultural trade dispute.

The farm lobby has launched an all-out effort to persuade the Government not to include agricultural goods in an import liberalisation package expected to be drawn up soon. The cabinet will meet on Monday to discuss the matter.

Yesterday's march followed the biggest anti-liberalisation rally by farmers since 1977, when farmers also protested against an increase in the imports quotas on beef and oranges. Beef prices are kept high to support the farmers, who are protected from imports by quotas.

Japan's citrus industry produces a surplus of small tangerines, known as mikans. Farmers claim free orange imports could force them out of business.

The U.S. and Japan are on a collision course over the issue of farm imports. Washington, which is challenging the curbs Japan maintains on 22 categories of agricultural items at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), is demanding complete liberalisation of beef and orange imports by April 1983. Farmers are adamantly opposed to any form of liberalisation.

This week's demonstrations have been co-ordinated by the Central Union of Agricultural Co-operatives (Zenchu), which claims to have gathered nearly 8,000 farmers from around the country.

Behind the scenes, farmers have been pressuring politicians not to break ranks. Zenchu says that about 250 ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Diet members in the 511 seat lower house support the farmers' position.

The LDP, with its mostly rural power base, depends on farmer support to maintain its majority control of the Government.

Earlier in the week the Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Committee of the House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution opposing liberalisation of imports.

The Government is attempting to put together a negotiating package by early in May before a May 10-11 meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

Hong Kong club with a touch of Le Corbusier

By Robert Cottrell in Hong Kong

HONG KONG is hardly the sort of place to encourage undue modesty where creature comforts are concerned, so any new club hoping to make a splash with local businessmen would have to offer something rather more glamorous than a collection of battered leather armchairs and jam roly-poly on the luncheon menu.

The Jockey Club may have its racecourse, the Foreign Correspondents' Club its louche charm, but Alfred Siu's I Club has HK$30m (£3m) of interior decor, a HK$5m initial budget for works of art, furniture by Le Corbusier, film mogul Sir Run Run Shaw as a patron, and Andy Warhol in person to get the July opening party underway.

If that doesn't have you queueing up for membership, Mr Siu has two more clubs on the drawing board with a U.S.$300,000 (£171,000); prize on offer for architects to design the next one.

Mr Siu, a Stanford-trained civil engineer, is pitching the I Club at the younger businessman—he is himself only 27 years old. His father, Mr Siu Hon Sum, is a prominent local businessman who heads the family's on Lee Siu group of companies. His mother, Mrs Kitty Siu Hon Sum, is a socialite well-known in Hong Kong for her community service work.

The I Club's name derives from when Alfred Siu was toying with words to sum up his brainchild. He ran through "international," "image" and "idea" before boiling them down to their initial letter. A local newspaper searching for a comparable Chinese character to "I" to describe the venture came up with one meaning "trades union" or, more closely, "workers' club," but its members may rest assured that the freak of linguistics is purely accidental.

Trades unionists might, for one thing, find it difficult to part easily with the HK$30,000 entrance fee—HK$50,000 for corporate membership—plus the HK$500 monthly subscription. But with I's 58,000 sq ft of prime central district space in Bank of America Tower, costing a probable HK$1.6m a month rental, there is little scope for shoestring budgets.

Mr Siu's younger businessmen will get for their money the usual games room, library, restaurant and lounge, plus the not-so-usual theatre, art collection, health spa and nightclub. The blue-chip Hong Kong Club has been raided for its chef, Mr Rolf Schneider, while a communal hot-tub is available in the health spa for post-prandial discussion of business and other topics. Minimalist designer Joe d'Urso is doing the decor—though the "minimalist" tag is not thought to refer to his fee.

Taiwan steel output boost planned

By Robert King in Taipei

Taiwan's State-owned China Steel Corporation will in the near future complete an expansion project which will give the firm capacity for an additional 1.75m tonnes of steel a year, according to the company's new chairman, Mr T. K. Liu.

Mr Liu, who took over the chairman's post late last year from Mr William Y. T. Chao, now Taiwan's Minister of Economic Affairs, said the expansion would allow the company to produce hot- and cold-rolled sheet and coil, in addition to its present production of 1.5m tonnes of plate, bar, wire, billets and pig iron.

In the past, Mr Liu said, Taiwan has had to import all of its requirements for hot- and cold-rolled sheet and coil. Last year, those imports totalled about 1.1m tonnes at a cost of approximately $450m. He estimated that demand for this steel in Taiwan used in products ranging from household, piping and refrigerators, to small ships and shipping containers, will reach 1.2m tonnes next year.

Although the new plant will hopefully be in operation by the beginning of May, Mr Liu said it will take about another year for it to be running at full capacity.

Several equipment manufacturers from West Germany, Belgium, France, Japan and the U.S. supplied China Steel with about $800m worth of new plant equipment, he said. The company also ran up another $400m to $500m in local construction costs, bringing total costs for the project close to $1.3bn.

Mr Liu also said more than 50 per cent of its current 1.5m tonne production is exported, mostly to Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia. This contrasts sharply with previous years, when as much as 80 per cent of China Steel's output was sold on the Taiwan market.

A sharp recession on the island, especially affecting Taiwan's construction industry, which traditionally uses signicant amounts of steel, is behind the domestic slump, he said.

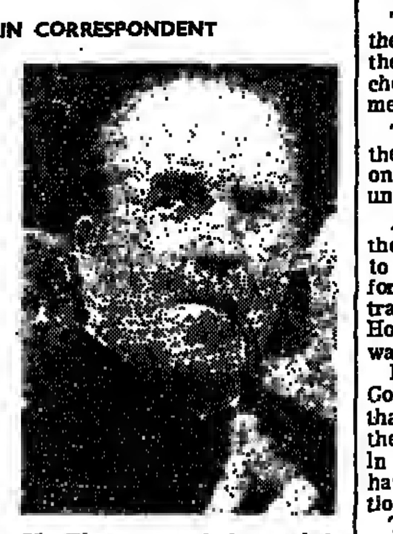
French mend Canadian fences

THE FRENCH Government has signalled its desire to improve relations with Canada during a five-day visit by M Pierre Manroy, the French Premier, James Rusk writes from Ottawa. M Manroy had two days of talks with Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, and other senior Ministers, and underlined his Government's intent to esablish "more than normal" relations with Canada.

Irish workers strike over health taxes

BY BRENDAN KEENAN, DUBLIN CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 1,000 membrs of one of Ireland's biggest unions went on strike and marched through Dublin yesterday in protest at recent increases in social insurance contributions. The protest went ahead despite a promise by the Government to give back Ir£45m (£36m) of the increases in new tax allowances.



Mr Blaney . . . help needed

The Government of Mr Charles Haughey has been badly shaken by the reaction to the new rates. Yesterday's stoppage, called by the 7,000-strong Marine, Port and General Workers' Union, was the first to be officially endorsed, but there have been several lightning stoppages when workers received their pay packets from which the new deductions had been made.

The increases meant extra contributions of up to Ir£214 a year for a worker on Ir£10,000 a year. The promised allowances would reduce that figure to Ir£103 a year.

Despite this, transport unions have called for a halt of all bus and train services next Wednesday afternoon and Mr Haughey's erstwhile allies in the left wing SFWP Party are to press ahead with a Dail motion condemning the increases.

One of their three MPs said they wanted the Ir£45m rebate to be paid for by the return of death duties—abolished in 1971—rather than through fresh taxes and spending cuts, as suggested by the Government.

With other Left-wingers likely to support this line, Mr Haughey may require the support of the remaining independent, Mr Neil Blaney, to get the measure through. Mr Blaney is already looking for extra spending for his Donegal base as the price of continued support.

Portuguese Government ends wheat price subsidy

BY DIANA SMITH IN LISBON

THE Portuguese Government has removed a subsidy on wheat prices that would have cost the state Es 9bn (£71m) this year.

At the same time, it has raised bread prices by 26 to 29 per cent. A large loaf will cost Es 41.

Sr Bailio Horta, Agriculture Minister, announced that other staples such as rice, milk and sugar would be subject to a maximum price system. They would not increase in price this year.

It was recently announced that the cost of living in Portugal rose by 7 per cent in the first quarter of this year, raising serious doubts that the Government's annual inflation target of 17 per cent can be met.

Portugal's various supply funds, which have given generous subsidies to a number of basic foods, are Es 50bn in deficit, according to Sr Horta.

One of the policies of the centre-right coalition is to attempt to introduce some realism into prices and to encourage competition. Thus, a number of non-essential, non-food goods previously kept under price controls will now be subject to free competition.

For the time being the authorities have no choice but to continue subsidising diesel to prevent the impact of a realistic price harming public transport and agriculture.

A realistic price, according to Sr Horta, would be Es 58 a litre, the same as petrol. But the Government can make only a modest, 8 per cent increase to Es 30 a litre.

Election landslide for Malay Government

BY DAVID DODWELL

MALAYSIA'S national coalition lead by Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was poised last night for its most sweeping electoral victory since independence.

Dr Mahathir, who became premier nine months ago, called the election to seek a mandate for reforms leading to a "cleaner, more efficient and more trustworthy" government. Having won resounding support Dr Mahathir hinted yesterday that a cabinet reshuffle can be expected next week.

With results in from all but one of the 114 seats in peninsular Malaysia, and with eight candidates being returned unopposed from the Eastern Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, the National Coalition had won 110 seats, compared with just 11 won by opposition candidates.

Since the coalition is expected to win the remaining 32 seats in Sabah and Sarawak, Dr Mahathir is likely to be returned to power with more than 140 of the national parliament's 154 seats, compared with 133 when the general election was called two weeks ago.

Faced by a nationwide swing of about 5 per cent to the coalition, the opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP) took a severe drubbing. For the first time the coalition was able to break the DAP's stranglehold over the urban Chinese vote.

The coalition's only reversals came in the conservative rural states of Kelantan and Trengganu, where the religious extremist Parti Islam won five parliamentary seats.

UK NEWS

Government warning to London Transport

By John Hunt, Parliamentary Correspondent

THE Government would impose a reorganisation of London Transport unless the Greater London Council quickly produces its own proposals, Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Transport, said yesterday.

He gave no details, but one idea floated recently was to set up a regional passenger authority which would be responsible for integrating London's buses and Underground system with local British Rail services.

Another suggestion was that the Department of Transport should take London Transport under its wing.

Mr Eyre was speaking in a House of Commons debate on a private member's Bill from Mr Douglas Jay (Lab, Battersea North) to let the GLC subsidise bus and tube fares out of the rates.

This would, in effect, bypass the Law Lords' judgment that the GLC scheme for providing cheap fares by raising a supplementary rate was unlawful.

There were noisy scenes as the debate ended without a vote on the Bill. This means it is unlikely to go further.

As a result of the fares row, the Government asked the GLC to produce proposals quickly for an integrated and efficient transport system. Mr David Howell, Transport Secretary, wants these by the summer.

Mr Eyre yesterday said the Government had made it plain that it wants quick action. "If the GLC won't put its own house in order the Government will have to impose its own solution."

The Government will set out its own ideas for a better organised system and the views of the Commons Transport Committee would be taken into account.

"After the disasters, failures and illegalities of recent months the situation cannot be left as it is," he said.

Mr Jay later accused Conservative MPs of obstructing the Bill.

Third reading for Children's Homes Bill

A BILL to tighten up the registration, inspection and conduct of certain private children's homes was given an unopposed third reading in the House of Commons yesterday.

It had been piloted through the Commons by Mr Ted Leadbitter, Labour MP for Hartlepool, and now goes to the Lords.

The Children's Homes Bill sets up a system of compulsory registration and prevents local authorities from placing a child in an unregistered home.

It makes it an offence for an unregistered home to accommodate a child placed in its care, and empowers local authorities to inspect the homes annually and to cancel registration of those not up to standard.

The Bill specifically excludes community homes and voluntary homes defined in the Child Care Act 1980.

Mr Leadbitter said he was pleased that at a time when the country was facing such great problems, a Bill such as this could go through the Commons with a "remarkable degree of co-operation."

Breakthrough for BCal on W. German routes

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Caledonian Airways, which has been fighting for years to win new services between Gatwick and the Continent, has achieved a breakthrough on West German routes.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed this week between the UK and West German Governments, the airline will be able to start flights from Gatwick to Frankfurt in September, and between Gatwick and Cologne / Bonn, Hanover, Hamburg and Stuttgart from the beginning of next April.

However, the airline has still not won complete approval from the West German authorities for its cheap "mini-prix" fares schemes. These would have offered rates substantially below existing levels.

The British and West German airlines have been instructed to work out a range of cheaper fares for the routes in question, so that it is not yet possible to give details of fares on the routes now approved.

British Caledonian is nevertheless delighted at the decision which widens its European short-haul network. The airline already flies from there to Amsterdam, Brussels, Genoa and Paris.

It made applications some time ago to the Civil Aviation Authority for a wide range of services to continental cities, but most of these have remained blocked

West German approval for the five cities now named is regarded as a major breakthrough for the airline as the "second force". British operator (after British Airways) on those routes.

● British Airways intends to press ahead with its campaign to win cheaper fares in Western Europe, in spite of resistance from various continental airlines and governments, says Mr Roy Watts, deputy chairman and chief executive.

Writing in the latest issue of Executive World, BA's magazine for businessmen, Mr Watts says that while it is up to the airlines to push for cheaper fares, governments also have a part to play.

"Certainly, we have not always been successful in getting the cuts we would like to see. But we shall go on trying because I sincerely believe that is the way the airline industry has to go, whether it likes it or not.

"We may not always have the wholehearted support of our fellow airlines. But I have a very strong feeling that history, at any rate, is on our side."

BAe chief warns of 'five tough years'

BY OUR AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE, the aircraft, missiles and space group, faces a tough five years ahead, according to Sir Austin Pearce, chairman, in his annual statement to shareholders.

Sir Austin says, however, that the group's spread of interests "which is wide but not so wide as to be uncontrollable, will keep us on course as a strong and profitable company."

The annual report confirms the earlier statement of a pre-tax profit of £71m for the year ended December 31 last, against £53m in the previous year.

Sir Austin says that British Aerospace is holding "active discussions" with the Government on projects designed to ensure work through to the end of this century and beyond.

These projects include the new A-320 version of the European Airbus; the P-110 fighter; an advanced turbo-propeller aircraft; and an advanced short take-off and landing combat aircraft.

Sir Austin stresses that participation in such programmes would require major investments in both fixed and working capital. Therefore, the group should make more effective use of all its resources "not just to meet but to decisively beat the competition."

While there is no lack of new projects on which to work "it is vital that we do not expose the company to undue risk through taking on too much too soon."

Sales last year totalled £1.66bn. Military aircraft sales accounted for £751m of this, guided weapons £346m, and civil aircraft £332.5m. Support services generated £124m and space activities £77.5m. The rest was achieved by miscellaneous sales.

Export sales were just over £1bn.

The report also says that "having regard to sales and orders received for the A-300 and A-310 aircraft by Airbus Industrie, and expectations for the future . . . . the board considers that, overall, the company's participation in the present programmes of Airbus Industrie will be profitable."

Fuel-saving policy 'still applies'

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

ENERGY CONSERVATION is to remain a central aspect of the Government's energy policy, despite the present fuel surplus and falling crude oil prices. This was made clear yesterday by Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of State for Energy.

The coal and nuclear industries would make important contributions to the UK's future energy needs, he said during a visit to Scotland. But the development lead times of these industries were long. The effects of decisions taken today would not be felt until the late 1980s or 1990s.

Mr Gray, who opened new commercial premises of J. T. L. Parkinson (Inverness), gave little hope of relief from increasing energy prices.

"Prices must reflect the continuing costs of supply if consumers are to make rational decisions," he said. "The way ahead is for consumers to recognise that energy is no longer a cheap and freely available resource."

In its energy campaign, the Government had recognised that price signals should be accompained by information.

Selective fiscal incentives, such as 25 per cent grants towards the cost of projects which demonstrated novel applications of energy saving were available from the Government.

The premises of Parkinson—a North Sea oil service company—incorporate an energy-engineered heating system designed to save up to 30 per cent of normal fuel requirements. Mr Gray said it was through such savings that British industry could become more efficient and competitive.

Failed furniture company relaunched

BY BELINDA NENK

A GROUP of former employees have relaunched the Hamlet Furniture trade name in Bristol. The company, which manufactured traditional quality furniture, went into receivership last December.

A team of middle management and other workers have formed a new company, Kempaft, which will use the Hamlet name. The 23 meployees, who include the former company secretary and quality control manager, are equal shareholders in the venture.

They each paid £500 to start the company and have agreed to contribute 30 per cent of their wages to the business for the first six months. They will have joint responsibility for the company's future.

Support for the venture has come from a number of other quarters, including a substantial loan guarantee from the Government.

As part of its streamlining the company has taken smaller premises and will be reducing the product range from 100 to 35 items. The workforce has been cut from about 120 to the present 23.

Mr Paul Marx, one of the production managers, said yesterday that he was confident the company had the right number of craftsmen for the new production schedules.

"I'm pleased we have been able to stay together as a team. Making quality furniture needs a lot of different skills and with modern premises, up-to-date machinery and the experienced workforce, we are keen to get going."

UK NEWS

Renault improves rust warranty

By Kenneth Gooding, Motor Industry Correspondent

Renault is offering UK customers a five-year guarantee against rust damage to its cars and light vans in a scheme which goes further than any offered so far by its rivals.

The guarantee is free, comprehensive and, unlike the other warranties being offered, does not require the customer to pay for periodic maintenance treatment.

Renault's previous rust damage warranty obliged the customer to pay for periodic maintenance treatment.

Renault's previousrust damage warranty obliged the customer to have the vehicle re-treated at regular intervals and a charge was made for the service.

Its new system, which covers all cars and vehicles of less than 2,000 kilograms sold after January 1 this year, entails no re-treatments or additional costs. The warranty covers perforation due to rust of any panel on the car.

A condition is that the customer should have the vehicle inspected once a year

● An attempt to win back some of the replacement parts business lost to the "quick fit" centres is being made by VAG (UK), the Lonrho subsidiary which imports Volkswagen and Audi vehicles to Britain.

VAG dealers will offer a Price Guarantee scheme on nearly 1,000 routine jobs covering such work as exhaust and shock absorber replacement. The company says its dealers will offer instant service and a fixed competitive price quotation.

Two Irelands compete for 1,000-job Hyster plant

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

HYSTER, THE U.S. forklift truck maker is to build a major new plant in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.

The plant, which will take Hyster into computer-controlled materials handling for the first time, will eventually involve more than 1,000 jobs and a much more substantial investment than their £25m plant opened last year at Craigavon in Northern Ireland.

Hyster, which made its announcement yesterday, said negotiations with the governments of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic would be completed in about a month, when the two deals would be compared.

In March, Mr James Prior, Northern Ireland Secretary, hinted that a major new overseas investment was expected soon.

Northern Ireland officials hope that Hyster will build its plant—which will include the administrative headquarters for the automated handling operations—at Antrim. Earlier this year the town lost 850 jobs when British Enkalon closed its fibres plant.

Mr William Kilkenny, the Hyster chairman, told the annual shareholders meeting in Portland, Oregon, yesterday of the company's intention to go into automated materials handling.

"The new products will be manufactured in a completely new facility which will be on stream soon. A major research, development and engineering centre will be created with initial hiring and programme work starting immediately," Mr Kilkenny said.

Mr Kilkenny claimed the new project would be the most ambitious by a company in the modern materials handling industry.

The industrial forklift truck would remain the mainstay of Hyster's business but the company believed that smaller segments of the $20bn (£11½m) world market for materials handling were forecast to grow at between 18-25 per cent over the next 10 years. These included automated storage and retrieval systems, materials handling robots and automatic guidance and control.

Workers to strike over RDL sale

BY IAN RODGER

WORKERS at Redpath Dorman Long, the British Steel Corporation's heavy engineering subsidiary, are to hold a one-day strike on Monday to protest against the agreed sale of RDL to the Trafalgar House Group.

The Steel Industry Management Association (SIMA), which represents 450 managers of the Bedford-based group, said it was seeking full consultations on the effect on employees of the proposed sale. It also demanded a full investigation of "the derisory sum of £10m which has been offered" and time to prepare a plan for the management to buy out the company.

BSC on Wednesday refused a request to delay the Trafalgar House deal and give the union's advisers a month to prepare their plan to take over the business.

Mr Bob Scholey, deputy chairman of British Steel, suggested in a letter to SIMA that an employee-led consortium would be unlikely to obtain sufficient financial backing.

Mr Eamonn Heffernan, SIMA branch secretary, said the strike call had been overwhelmingly endorsed by his members and the 2,600 workers belonging to other unions. He also claimed strong support from the 150 non-union staff.

In spite of the strike, safety cover is to be maintained on Monday by union members at RDL's 25 construction sites.

SIMA will also hold talks on Monday with the Office of Fair Trading, which has been examining claims that the sale to Trafalgar—which owns Cleveland Bridge and Engineering—would create a monopoly in the UK heavy steel structures industry. It is expected to conclude its study of the case next week.

Redpath Dorman Long has a turnover of about £100m a year and has suffered losses totalling about £60m over the past five years. However, the workforce has been cut from 9,000 to 3,200 and the group has begun to make a profit.

Fair pensions deal for job leavers urged

BY BARRY RILEY AND ERIC SHORT

BRITAIN'S occupational pensions movement will have to face up to the problem of giving fair treatment to the early leaver, it was sugggested yesterday by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment.

Speaking at the annual conference of the National Association of Pension Funds in Bournemouth, he referred to last year's report by the Occupational Pensions Board, which criticised the loss of pension rights often suffered by people who change their jobs, and emphasised that the Government was "taking the point very seriously."

"The board's report has not been shelved by the Government. We want to ensure that the labour market, like other markets, works flexibly and efficiently and that as far as possible artificial impediments to this flexible and efficient operation are removed," he said.

The Government did not want people to be tied to one employer simply to protect their pensions, and was prepared to consider alternative approaches

He called for changes and improvements to be made voluntarily, to avoid pressure for changes to be enforced by legislation.

Lord George-Brown, the lunchtime speaker, said that pension funds had a central role to play in the economic recovery of the country. First, funds needed to consider how to use their assets to provide the finance necessary to build new companies and industries and to create jobs to replace those lost in the recession.

Second, funds needed to encourage employees to move into these new industries by enabling them to transfer their pension rights. The transferability problem had been around for some time, and he was disappointed that no solution had appeared.

Pension schemes would have to look for a solution. He suggested the possibility of employees being treated like the self-employed and having individual pension plans, which they could take with them on change of job.

Mr Dick Taverne, director general of the Institute of Fiscal Studies and a member of the steering committee of the Social Democratic Party, said the transferability of pension rights and the indexation of pensions were two major problems currently facing pension funds.

He did not expect to see inflation rates continually below 10 per cent during the next decade. Hence, indexation of pensions was of the greatest importance, even if it meant a lower pension at outset.

Mr Taverne's other major point concerned the growing costs of the new state earnings-related pension scheme, which started four years ago. He considered the benefits far too generous

He warned that the costs of providing earnings-related pensions could double over the next 50 years to 35 per cent of earnings.

He urged a complete re-examination of the present scheme while it was still in its infancy and while changes could be made in the benefit structure without upsetting employees' expectations.

He also urged a complete reappraisal of the state's role, which in his opinion should confine itself to providing adequate basic pensions, leaving the private sector to top up.

Mr Chris Lewin, a member of the NAPF committee on index-linking, discussed various methods by which private sector schemes could make increased pension payments to their pensioners to offset the eroding effects of inflation.

To guarantee pension increases in line with rises in the retail price index could financially cripple many companies, even with inflation rates as low as 10 per cent, he said. But he felt that employers could provide considerable protection on a non-guaranteed basis.

He illustrated several alternative methods with figures to show that costs of such increases could be acceptable.

Mr Tom Schuller and Mr Jeff Hyman of the Centre for Research in Industrial Democracy and Participation at Glasgow University, told delegates that preliminary results of a survey showed that employers were voluntarily bringing employees to the control and management of pension schemes. But training of employees for such trustee and other duties appeared limited.

Duty to charterer 'outweighed seamanship'

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

FAILURE TO ventilate cargoes of copra on two bulk carriers by opening the hatches during a voyage—even though it would have been imprudent seamanship to have done so—was a breach of the owner's duty to the charterer, an arbitrator has ruled.

Mr Andrew Longmore ruled that Intermare Transport, of Hamburg, owner of the bulk carries Ross Isle and Ariel, was liable for damage to the cargoes.

In the Commercial Court yesterday, Mr Justice Staughton rejected Intermare's application for an order that the arbitrator give his reasons for making interim awards in favour of the charterer, International Copra Export Corporation.

The judge said arbitrators were required to give reasons only when their awards were based on questions of law. Mr Longmore had made his decisions on the basis of expert evidence.

The judge said that charter-parties under which the vessels carried the copra from the Philippines to Europe each contained a clause requiring the owner to "ventilate cargo as necessary" during the voyage.

On discharge the copra was found to contain excess moisture, which the charterer contended had resulted from inadequate ventilation.

The owner denied that, and said that, in any event, it would not have been safe to open the hatches while the vessels were at sea. The hatches opened athwartships and even the slightest roll might have caused them to bang shut and be damaged.

The judge had been told that the arbitrator had decided, from the expert evidence, that it was practice to open hatches to ventilate copra cargoes. That had not been done on the Ross Isle and Ariel because it would have been imprudent seamanship.

But, said the arbitrator, the fact that it would have been imprudent did not exonerate the owner from its duty to take all reasonable care of the cargo.

An owner could not excuse himself from fulfilling his duty to a charterer by providing a ship whose hatches it was impossible or unwise to open—especially if he had contracted to ventilate as necessary

Sinclair launches £125 computer

By Guy de Jonquieres

Mr Clive Sinclair yesterday unveiled a £125 personal computer which, he claimed, performs better than machines costing £500.

The ZX Spectrum is Sinclair's most powerful machine. It will supplement the successful £70 ZX81, of which more than 400,000 have been sold in its first year.

Production of the ZX Spectrum is to start in a few weeks, at an initial rate of 20,000 machines a month. Mr Sinclair hopes to sell 300,000-400,000 in the first year.

The ZX Spectrum is intended to compete with such popular personal computers as the British-made BBC Micro and machines made by U.S. companies including Texas Instruments, Commodore, Tandy Radio Shack and Atari.

It will be sold in two versions, the more powerful of which will cost £175. The power of the cheaper version can be increased by fitting an extra memory pack for about £60. All prices include VAT.

Mr Sinclair expected the machines to be bought by ZX 81 owners interested in computing as a hobby and by managers and professional staff who wanted their own desktop computer at work.

The ZX Spectrum has several features not available on the ZX 81. They include the ability to generate and display graphics using eight colours, a more versatile programming language, better keyboard and facilities for linking several machines in a communication network.

Mail order sales of the ZX Spectrum will start in the UK in a few weeks, and exports will start late in the year. Like the ZX 81, it will be made at a factory in Dundee, Scotland, owned by Timex, the U.S. watch group.

Mr Sinclair also announced yesterday a new range of software (programmes) for the ZX 81. It includes educational programmes, electronic games and a business financial modelling package.

He said sales by his company, Sinclair Research, had risen to about £27m in the year to March 31 from £4.7m, while pre-tax profits had increased to about £10m from £1.1m.

Sinclair Research has been discussing with N.M. Rothschild, the merchant bank, the possibility of selling shares through a private placement this year. Mr Sinclair said this would raise capital to finance non-computer activities, including the development of an electric car.

Inco cuts Welsh production

By John Edwards, Commodities Editor

INTERNATIONAL NICKEL Europe (Inco) has temporarily stopped nickel pellet and powder production at its Clydach refinery in South Wales.

This will mean putting 350 of the 870 employees there on short-time working. The company is asking the Department of Employment for assistance under the temporary short-time working compensation scheme.

Inco said the cuts at the refinery, which has been working at half capacity for 18 months, were due to stocks building up to unacceptably high levels because of low demand. The main markets for nickel pellets are stainless steel and high nickel alloys. Powder is used mainly in nickel/cadmium batteries.

Plantations group chief resigns post

By Ray Maughan

THE MANAGING director of McLeod Russell, the plantations group, resigned yesterday over what the company described as "differences of view over the future company policy."

Mr John Campbell's post is to be split between Mr Colin Montgomery and Mr Nigel Openshaw. Mr Openshaw, an accountant who joined the board last September, runs McLeod's UK businesses.

Mr Campbell, 35, joined the group as managing director in September 1979 from Noble Grossart, the Edinburgh-based merchant bank which is McLeod's financial adviser.

McLeod gave no details of the differences of view. It expressed its gratitude to Mr Campbell, who is to stay on as a consultant, particularly for his contribution to the hard-fought and successful £25m bid for Warren Plantations last autumn.

It is believed the differences stem from the varied opinions on acquisitions and disposals in the wake of the Warren deal.

LABOUR

Nalgo health group backs call for action

BY DAVID GOODHART, LABOUR STAFF

INDUSTRIAL action in the health service came nearer yesterday when the health group of the National Association of Local Government Officers backed a programme of action including lightning one-day strikes and an overtime ban.

Union negotiators representing 250,000 ancillary workers also rejected an unchanged 4 per cent offer at yesterday's meeting. The National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), which represents most ancillary staff, is consulting branches on industrial action.

More hostility to the Government came at a meeting yesterday of the nurses' unions—the Royal College of Nursing, Nupe and the Confederation of Health Service Employees—which reaffirmed rejection of their 6.4 per cent offer. All health workers are claiming 12 per cent.

The Nalgo health group, which represents 100,000 white-collar health workers, unanimously backed a motion of the national health committee of the union which included plans for one-day strikes, a ban on overtime and non-co-operation with NHS reorganisation.

The Nalgo plans will not be implemented immediately. The union said it would take the programme to the next meeting of the TUC Health Services Committee on April 29, where a common strategy would be worked out with other unions.

Cohse, which has not waited for joint action plans, will start industrial action on Monday.

Final plans for collective action by the other unions will probably be decided at the TUC health services meeting planned for May 10. The national executive of Nupe is meeting on May 7 to decide industrial action strategy and the General and Municipal Workers' Union health section meets on April 28.

Unions at BL sign bargaining accord

BY ARTHUR SMITH, MIDLAND CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of BL Cars' 11 manual unions signed a new bargaining agreement with the company last night which, it is hoped, could herald improvement in industrial relations.

The unions, following detailed consultations with shop stewards representing the 53,000 blue-collar workers, agreed that the deal was the best obtainable in the current negotiating climate.

Signature of the agreement will raise hopes for a new negotiating climate within the company—but both sides must recognise that they still have a long way to go.

Mr Geoff Armstrong, BL Cars employee relations director, described the document, which lays down new bargaining arrangements, as "very positive and constructive." It was an important development to enable the company and the trade unions to work together.

Mr Grenville Hawley, national automotive secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), said the unions hoped "to see the back of the old confrontation style of management."

The deal, a result of three months of negotiations, was influenced by the Government's Employment Bill.

A clause was sought by union negotiators to recognise the closed shop and to require outside contract labour to be union members. The company, clearly with the proposed legislation in mind, refused to make such concessions.

Union negotiators recognised that shop floor support for such an issue of principle was unlikely to be forthcoming given the present level of unemployment. The militants argued that the issue could be fought best on a pragmatic basis should disputes emerge within the plant.

The company, when it opened negotiations had sought a smaller central bargaining team of 24 union members in order to reduce the influence of shop stewards.

But there will be 37 union representatives—a compromise necessary to meet the demand from the TGWU for increased representation.

The transport workers, who claim to represent 60 per cent of the workforce, complained that they could be outvoted on the previous negotiating committee by a coalition of the engineering and other small craft unions.

The new structure gives the TGWU 18 of the seats which should mean that it will win most of the formal votes.

Talks on the new bargaining arrangements began after the crisis over the all-out strike last November in protest at the company's 3.8 per cent pay offer.

Agreement on negotiating procedure and the new bargaining units marks an important stage. But the unions will be seeking a more cooperative attitude by management as well as reforms of the present productivity - based incentive scheme.

The company promised in November to explore ways of relating payments more closely to individual effort, rather than to the performance of factories as a whole.

Negotiations have yet to open on what is likely to prove a difficult issue—as the company will be extremely reluctant to lose central control over costs and to move once more towards the leap-frogging pay claims and rivalry endemic to the old piece-work system.

Halewood dispute 'over'

BY DAVID GOODHART, LABOUR STAFF

WORK IS expected to resume on Monday at Ford's Halewood plant after national talks between union officials and management yesterday.

The dispute, which began last Monday when 18 workers in the metal finishing area were taken off the payroll for refusing to work normally, has lost the company about 6,700 Escort cars valued at £30m.

A management spokesman at Halewood said that some of the 5,000 men who have been laid-off on the day and night shifts in the body construction and assembly areas would be recalled at the weekend. Management are hopeful of a full resumption of work on Monday.

The 18 metal-finishers walked out when a type of work over which there was a demarcation dispute was given to quality control men under a local interim agreement between unions and management. The strike then spread to 300 body-shop workers who walked out

The agreement reached in London yesterday reaffirms the local interim agreement until the next meeting of the National Joint Negotiating Council

Mr Ron Todd, Transport and General Workers Union national organiser, who represented the union side along with the Halewood Joint Works Committee, said: "We will instruct the metal finishers to honour the interim agreement."

The next stage of national discussions will thrash out whether work changes introduced at Halewood constitute normal efficiency procedures or form part of the After-Japan proposals.

Steel plant 'threat' averted

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

THE IRON and Steel Trades Confederation claimed yesterday that a threat to close the British Steel Corporation's plant at Craigneur, in Motherwell, Scotland, had been withdrawn after a joint union and management meeting in Perth.

Mr Clive Lewis, the ISTC's Scottish organiser, had said on Thursday that the workers were given an ultimatum: take a £15-a-week pay cut or the works would close with the loss of 1,000 jobs.

Mr Ian McKellar, personnel manager of the Scottish forges and foundries division, issued a joint statement after yesterday's 70-minute meeting between management and officials of the four unions involved.

"It was agreed that there would be a programme of joint meetings to identify action necessary to ensure the business viability and therefore reduction of the works. No closure announcement or closure proposal has been made by management," he said.

UCW to ballot on offer

BY DAVID GOODHART, LABOUR STAFF

THE NATIONAL executive of the postal workers' union has recommended acceptance of the Post Office's 7 per cent pay offer.

The recommendation from the postal group of the Union of Communication Workers will now got to a ballot of branches. The result, which is expected to go in favour of acceptance, will be known on May 11.

The 7 per cent offer on basic pay is an improvement on the Post Office's original offer of 5 per cent but falls well short of the UCW's claim for 20 per cent.

The offer includes a 7 per cent increase on basic allowances and a lump sum payment of about £55 to compensate for last year's widening of the differential with postal supervisers.

The supervisors, members of the Communications Managers Association, last year won a rise of about 10 per cent after going to arbitration. The postal workers settled for 8 per cent plus another 1½ per cent halfway through the year.

Tebbit to meet dockers' leaders

By Brian Groom, Labour Staff

MR NORMAN TEBBIT, Employment Secretary, is prepared to meet dockers' leaders to discuss their demand for the national dock labour scheme to be extended to all ports and wharves.

A national strike by up to 24,000 dockers in all ports has been threatened from May 10 unless the Government begins talks towards achieving this.

The Employment Department has been in touch with Mr John Connolly, national docks secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, to discuss a meeting.

If the dockers do not back down on their threat, Mr Tebbit will face a tough decision. He will either have to compromise on a demand which the Conservatives have long opposed, or face a dispute with one of Britain's most potentially powerful industrial groups.

A determined dock strike would almost certainly have to be combatted by using the country's armed forces.

The dockers have changed tactics, by focusing their current demand on extending the labour scheme—which now covers ports handling four-fifths of seaborne trade—to ports which remain outside it.

Demands in previous years have centred on extending the boundaries around registered ports, within which dockers have the right to most port-related work, to win back jobs lost through containerisation. It is this demand which has previously provoked the strongest opposition in Parliament and from employers.

Meanwhile, it emerged yesterday that the present 20 local subsidiary boards of the National Dock Labour Board would remain. It was a proposal to replace these with five regional bodies as part of an NDLB cost-cutting plan which sparked off the threat of a national strike from Monday.

The proposal with withdrawn on Thursday, and the strike seems to have been averted. However, the cost-cutting plan was not withdrawn in its entirety, and the TGWU leadership may be criticised by some sections of the union

The proposal to replace the local boards may have been withdrawn even without the dockers' threat, because the boards themselves objected to it.

In Liverpool, where a state of unease continues over several issues, a mass meeting will take place tomorrow.

Employers are offering payments of up to £22,500 in a special six-week scheme to achieve more than 2,000 voluntary redundancies nationally. Liverpool, which is seeking 725, is understood to have been flooded with more than 700 applications in the first week.

The Port of Southampton, which is just recovering from an 11-month bout of disputes, was on the brink of another crisis again yesterday after foremen rejected a new set of proposals designed to cure shortages among their ranks.

The British Transport Docks Board, the port's operator, has threatened to curtail working from May 6 if a complex issue stemming from rivalries between foremen and dockers is not resolved.

Pay deal would give chemical workers 7.6%

By Our Labour Staff

UNION negotiators for 15,000 production workers have reached a pay deal with employers in the pharmaceutical and fine chemical industry which would raise the basic weekly rate by 7.6 per cent, from £72 to £77.50. There are more increases on shift pay.

Mr David Warburton, national industrial officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, one of the three unions involved, said: "We have also secured a further cut in working hours from May next year to 38 hours. The companies have also agreed to join with us in efforts to eliminate overtime and I believe this should help to protect jobs."

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THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

The markets find their sea-legs

LONDON

ONLOOKER

After three weeks of acclimatisation, the markets have seemingly come to terms with the Falklands. Gilt-edged and equities both staged recoveries this week while gold—the classic political hedge—relapsed.

Things eased in the money market too. A week ago the Bank of England had to hold rates down by making a 40 per cent cut in the weekly allocation of Treasury bills. It was indicative of changed conditions that yesterday's bill tender rate had fallen by almost a third of a point—without special attention—to 12.93 per cent.

It would be too much to talk of returning confidence, since there was no great pressure of buying in either equities or gilts. It was more a matter of *jobbers keeping their spreads* wide and moving prices upwards in order to choke off business. Existing stock might edge upwards—in the last week the All Share index has picked up almost all its geopolitical drop—but an underlying caution is still betrayed by the dearth of large corporate deals.

When Vickers raised money at the end of March, bringing its results forward for the purpose, it appeared that there must be a crowd of rights issues waiting in the Government Broker's ante-room.

As always happens in uncertain markets, a number of these issues must have been pulled. And—the scramble for gravel pits apart—anybody who was thinking about an acquisition this spring will have held back in case the market took a real tumble.

Dunlop's dowry

It has looked likely for some time that 1981 would mark the trough of Dunlop's fortunes on the cash front. Cash flow from trading remains very weak — the company broke even last year after £45m of interest charges, and then went on to pay £20m of tax. Spending on extraordinary items continues at a high level — £19m of cash went through the funds statement in 1981. At the same time more stable volume and the weakening of sterling have made it harder for the group to release funds from working capital. Capital spending is running at £60m per annum.

The shortfall has been made up by the receipt of £22m from Pirelli — the return of Dunlop's dowry — and the disposal of the Dunlop Estates in Malaysia, which is bringing in £60m cash and a *helpful book profit of* £23m. Despite this, borrowings were up by £35m last year: Dunlop France has returned to the balance sheet as a subsidiary, and brought its debts with it, while the Indian business has gone the other way. After all these bewildering shuffles, gross debt of £363m is rather above total shareholders' funds and minorities, and something like 3½ times Dunlop's market capitalisation.

That means that Dunlop could not make a worthwhile dent in its mountain of debt by having a rights issue, even if it wanted to. This year operational cash flow should improve as the European tyre operation shrinks back into *profit. But working capital* needs are likely to rise, and in order to prevent further deterioration of its borrowing ratios Dunlop may have to jettison another big, profitable overseas business. The most likely is perhaps Dunlop Malaysian Industries—and if that were sold to the Malays they might no longer want to retain an interest in Dunlop.

Dunlop has staked its whole existence on its ability to turn the European tyre side round. The pre-interest loss on tyres in the UK fell from £11m to £5m between the two halves of 1981—the 1980 total was £22m—and there should be a small *profit before interest this year.* But with borrowings like Dunlop's that means more losses at the pre-tax level.

Hawker's quality

A solid 1981 performance from Hawker Siddeley, reported this week, stilled the qualms of analysts who had been on the edge of their chairs ever since seeing the profits fall at Hawker's Canadian operations a month ago.

The electrical and mechanical engineering group posted a pre-tax rise for the year of just over £8m to £121m. Second half profits of £59.5m almost matched the interim outturn of £61.6m, an impressive result considering that virtually all of *the year's currency gains of* over £4m came into the interim period.

The mechanical division set the pace with trading profits rising by a third to £63.4m. The push has come from a good showing from industrial diesels. Star performers were Lister and the two Mirrlees companies though diesels did not have it all their own way. L. Gardner in particular was struggling hard against a very depressed market for commercial vehicles.

The story across at electrical engineering is less inspiring. Overall trading profits are fractionally lower at £43.3m with problems at the lighter end of the product range such as lighting and cables. Medium switchgear and transformers held up reasonably well.

Hawker cannot be expecting much from its American and Australian operations this year—profits in both areas will probably be down. But at home the savings in interest charges, benefits of cost cutting and absence of redundancy payments should keep group profits moving ahead. The market is predicting £135m or so for 1982 pointing to a fully taxed earnings multiple of just over 10. Not an expensive rating for a core holding in the sector.

Delta's dividend

The 1981 revenue account of Delta Group is fairly representative of *those companies which* have spent heavily to reorganise their domestic operations while leaning on more buoyant overseas businesses. The trading profit of £25.7m, after associate earnings, is halved by interest charges and then almost obliterated by the tax charge on foreign profits. A pre-tax profit of £12.7m, which compares with £19.6m in 1980, is *converted to a retained loss of* £4m after payment of a maintained dividend.

The cash spent on surgery, coupled with a disquieting increase in working capital, has kept net debt equivalent to roughly half shareholders funds even after asset disposals which have brought in £30m. But the costly reorganisation is at least putting the UK companies in a strong enough position to compensate for a downturn in South Africa and Australasia without much help from demand.

This switch will come as a welcome relief to Delta's tax accountants who, with unrelieved ACT to pay, were saddled with a group tax charge of 82.5 per cent last year. So at least the dividend, which yields over 11 per cent at a price of 48p, looks fairly safe. The taxrate could well fall to about 30 per cent this year.

But, without further disposals, Delta cannot reckon with a cash inflow in 1982 and the gearing ratio will remain high. Reserves were eroded last year not just by the retained losses but also by an unusual negative revaluation of properties. Delta has placed its faith in high value added products, not all of which are yet producing an adequate return. The overall strategy may be right but, with capital spending being maintained and working capital on the increase, Delta will probably be tempted to seek some help from its shareholders if the yield on the share falls well into single figures.

Empire shrinks

Great Universal Stores finally came out with a full bid for Empire Stores (Bradford) during the week but the announcement of GUS's terms *after several days' hard talking* leaves almost as many questions in the air as it did beforehand.

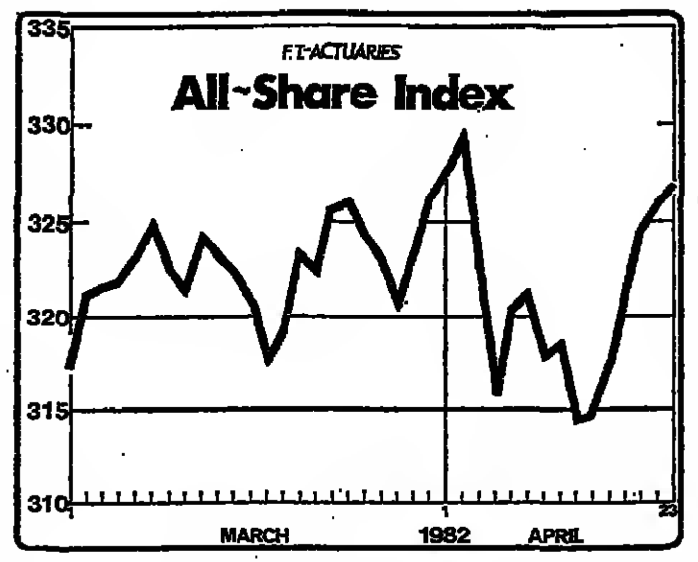
At least the City now knows that GUS is heading for full control rather than a large, influential stake in the Bradford-based catalogue mail order business. But analysts also had their expectations confirmed; Empire was still making money in 1981.

With pre-tax profits of £2.4m against £5.6m, Empire is hardly bulging with cash. But this £37m offer, pitched largely in "A" ordinary shares, cannot be described as a rescue even though GUS is offering nothing more than net assets value.

It seems almost inevitable that the Office of Fair Trading *will want to look at this particular* deal and a Monopolies Commission reference may well result. GUS and Empire, after all, would stack up to about 47 per cent of the industry.

GUS seems, however, to be preparing its monopoly defence in the context of the national retailing scene as a whole, in which mail order plays a very small part. Empire, for its part, seems to have been prepared to accept GUS's overtures on the basis that its own cash flow was not enough to invest adequately in the technical equipment needed for success in the electronic mid-1980s.

But other companies, notably Grattan, are *known to be un*happy about the proposed concentration of mail order power. And other retailers, such as Sears, will be scrutinising GUS's formal offer document for any chink which might let in a counter bid.



MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price y'day	Change on week	1981-82 High	1981-82 Low	
F.T. Govt. Secs. Index	67.61	+ 1.11	69.55	61.89	Rally after recent shake-out
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	567.1	+16.4	579.8	518.1	Small buying in short markets
F.T. Gold Mines Index	260.1	− 5.4	302.0	209.2	Lower bullion/qtrly. profits fall
BP	320	+34	320	274	OPEC prod. cuts/Mid East tension
British Sugar	475	+30	480	97	Annual results soon
CCP North Sea	217	+24	217	145	Agreed bid from Tricentrol
Dentsply 9% Cnv. 1991-96	£93	+29	£93	£63	Early repayment at £90 per cent
Glaxo	632	+40	636	418	Share-split hopes
Grindlays	186	+20	215	158	Revived bid speculation
Harris Queensway	168	+30	172	126	Annual results
Hawker Siddeley	324	+28	350	290	Good results
Lonsdale Universal	66	+24	68	33	Bid from John Menzies
RMC	227	+11	248	198	Prelim. profits above estimates
Sainsbury (J.)	600	+30	605	500	Annual results soon
Shell Transport	416	+38	416	334	OPEC prod. cuts/Mid East tension
Sotheby P. B.	350	+65	393	275	De Beers diamond auction
Speedwell Gear Case	23	+11	24	11	Bid situation
Tilbury Group	402	+77	402	290	Return to profits & cap. p'psls.
Websters	45	+ 7	45	38	Annual results
York Trailer	19	+ 7	20	9	Chairman's progress report

A touch of aplomb

NEW YORK

RICHARD LAMBERT

THERE HAS been a touch of spring in the air on Wall Street this week, and the mood of the equity market has been noticeably more buoyant. Trading volume has picked up—Thursday's business was the heaviest for a month. And although price movements in general have not been all that special, the market has been able to absorb a string of bad quarterly results and the expected surge in the money supply figures with something close to aplomb.

The main excitement came on Thursday, when the oil stocks—which have been such poor performers this year—suddenly started a run. The likes of Standard Oil (Indiana) and Atlantic Richfield jumped a couple of points higher, and the excitement continued yesterday morning when an order imbalance delayed trading in Standard Oil of California.

The gains were most marked in those companies with hig reserves in the Western hemisphere. The domestic oil groups had been even weaker than the internationals in the opening months of the year, with falls averaging nearly a fifth, and rising Middle East tension helped to spur the rally in companies with relative political security. Other factors included reports of falling Opec production levels and a firmer trend in spot prices for crude.

Star performer in the oil service sector was Schlumber, which defied the bears on Thursday with news of sharply increased profits in the first quarter. Its shares, which had fallen by around 40 per cent from their high point, fairly short ahead.

Elsewhere, bad news seemed to have been pretty well discounted. For instance, the Commerce Department announced on Wednesday that gross national product had slipped at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.9 per cent in the first quarter of 1982. Not good—but better than the 4.5 per cent decline which was its unofficial estimate last month.

Another reason for feeling more cheerful lay in the credit markets. The action in long dated government bonds still loks pretty indecisive, but things have been stirring a little at the short end. The yield on three month Treasury Bills edged down by the best part of half a point in the first *few days of the week, and has* fallen by a point or more since the beginning of the month, when it was nearly 13.5 per cent.

The protracted negotiations in Washington over the 1983 Budget remain a primefocus of attention, and rumours of their likely success or failure continue to send prices skittering in either direction. It is now the generally accepted wisdom that a successful outcome—which on Wall Street means a cut of more than $50bn in the likely deficit—will bring interest rates sharply lower and send security prices shooting up.

By the same token, the view is that failure will bring intolerable pressures on the financial system, and seriously damage the corporate sector.

So the equity market is a risky place at present. It is clear that the big institutional investors have been taking a rather bolder line in the last few days. But it is also clear that they have been concentrating their fire power on companies which are financially strong and which are not soo seriously threatened by continuing weakness in the domestic economy.

Evidence of this approach lies in the strength of the utility stocks, which have been hitting new highs again this week. Their yields — generally well over 10 per cent — will look attractive if interest rates really areon the way down. And the dividend prospects for the *higher issues are rock solid.*

The same criteria apply to the selection of industrial shares.

Since the equity market as a whole peaked outi n January, shares in companies like Pepsico, G. D. Searle, Disney and McDonald have risen by a tenth and more. But companies like U.S. Steel, Kaiser Aluminum or Caterpilla have fallen by a similar amount.

Over the same period, the price of Delta Air, one of the most efficient and financially sound airlines in the world. Has jumped by 30 per cent, whereas financially troubled Braniff has continued to slide.

The message is that it is much to soon to start looking for "bombed out stocks." In today's uncertain conditions, quality is worth a premium.

MONDAY	846.08	+2.66
TUESDAY	840.56	−5.52
WEDNESDAY	843.42	+2.86
THURSDAY	853.12	+9.70

Picking out the nuggets

MINING

GEORGE MILLING-STANLEY

THIS WEEK saw the publication of reports on the March quarter from the South African gold mines in five of that country's leading mining groups, Anglo American Corporation, Anglovaal, Barlow Rand, General Mining Union Corporation (Gencor) and Johannesburg Consolidated Investment ("Johnnies").

In general, these reports followed the trend set by the mines in the Consolidated Gold Fields group, which published their figures a couple of weeks ago. Profits are mostly lower, in some cases substantially, with several of the more marginal operations dipping into the red.

These declines came in spite of higher tonnages milled and some improvements in ore grades, which often led to increased gold production.

The principal adverse factor affecting profits was, of course, the sharply lower averaga gold price received by the mines. The London closing gold price has averaged just $363 per troy ounce in the latest three months, compared with $417 in the December quarter.

One somewhat surprising aspect of the March reports was the comparatively small impact on profits arising from the increase from 5 to 15 per cent in the tax surcharge on the already heavily-taxed gold mines, announced in the recent South African budget.

This is explained by the fact that the increased tax levied on profits already considerably reduced by tha weakness in the gold price.

In fact, several of the mines performed so poorly at the operating profits level that they actually paid less tax than in the previous quarter, in spite of the higher rates prevailing.

The quarterly reports contain a mass of information, covering the results of recent development work in addition to precise datails of the mines' physical and financial performance over the three months.

There is so much data that it is impossible to cover all of the reports in detail in this column, but as usual there are several worthwhile nuggets of information contained in the latest statements.

For example, Anglo's Free State Geduld has gone some way towards alleviating concern about the mine's future in the wake of the series of five earth tremors earlier this month by providing a lengthy statement on the damage done and progress towards a resumption of normal operations.

The tremors, which affected two shafts and associated workings, took the lives of four workers and injured 20 others. Apart from disruption caused by the shaft damage, access ways to some of Free State Geduld's higher-grade workings were closed.

The statement says that sufficient repair work on the shafts will have been completed by the first week in May for both to resume operations, while work on reopening the damaged access ways to the richer orezones has already begun. Once this is complete, tha mine estimates it will take about three weeks to get back to full production.

The shortfall of ore milled over the next two quarters will probably be only about *70,000* tonnes, which is insignificant in the context of the mine's normal quarterly milling rate of over 700,000 tonnes.

In addition, this year's output from the vital higher-grade areas should be close to the original forecast.

The bad news is that Free State Geduld's insurance does not cover the mine against earthquakes, so a provision against the cost of the damage will have to be made in the current quarter. Fortunately, this is not expected to be substantial.

The other principal nuggets in the latest reports concern the marginal operations, such as Gencor's West Rand Consolidated and Stilfontein and Western Areas in the "Johnnies" group.

West Rand Consolidated is wholly dependent on its very low-grade gold operations now that it has stopped uranium production, but the mine is still running at a loss, even after receipt of state aid.

Gencor had originally hoped to keep the operation going until uranium prices rise sufficiently to make a resumption of production viable, but there must by now be very real doubts about the mine's future.

Stilfontein has reduced production in order to "conform to the optimum life of mine plan," the report says. In simple terms, the lower gold price effectively reduces the amount of ore in a mine which is deemed to be payable, thus shortening its life. Gencor clearly wants to avoid this with an operation which already has a limited life span.

In the case of Western Areas, Mr George Nisbet, chairman, admitted that this was a critical time for the mine, and said he was considering every possible means of improving the position.

This may include an application for state aid, but Mr Nisbet denied the strong rumours that Western Areas has already applied and been turned down.

GOLD MINE NET PROFITS

	March quarter R000s	December quarter R000s	September quarter R000s	June quarter R000s
Blyvooruitzicht§	13,824	17,453	17,042	17,606
Bracken	1,222	2,278	2,964	2,359
Buffelsfontein§	12,799	27,304	26,385	30,071
Deelkraal	2,684	4,281	4,086	3,690
Doornfontein	11,156	15,995	10,946	18,103
Driefontein	76,485	81,808	78,534	92,091
Durban Deep	2,566	8,446	7,950	4,716
East Daggafontein	*57	183	*24	145
Ergo	13,354	12,627	16,223	20,390
East Rand Pty.	*6,791	†8,807	†6,780	10,004
East Transvaal	1,163	2,255	1,917	2,423
Elandsrand	*429	2,065	2,684	4,329
FS Geduld§	36,189	36,932	41,176	37,559
Grootvlei	4,043	6,943	4,792	5,027
Harmony§	21,723	24,902	23,107	26,489
Hartebeest§	11,998	28,057	27,560	29,442
Kloross	6,927	8,460	10,000	8,137
Kloof	28,138	32,968	28,013	34,862
Leslie	1,522	1,797	3,123	2,886
Libanon	11,190	12,880	10,615	11,452
Loraine	†3,012	†2,526	†2,454	†3,483
Marievale	157	715	500	537
President Brand§	27,486	27,070	37,259	35,475
President Steyn§	19,661	30,041	27,907	28,052
Randfontein	29,810	50,857	31,997	36,339
St Helena	¶21,984	¶35,645	¶31,848	16,158
South African Land	1,457	1,990	1,884	1,198
Stilfontein	6,433	14,621	11,231	11,625
Unisel	6,024	11,533	14,617	13,475
Vaal Reefs	54,795	93,696	75,986	89,986
Venterspost	†3,170	†3,579	†2,410	4,022
Village Main	*42	255	348	486
Vlakfontein	457	465	275	426
West Rand Consold.	*†1,436	†2,925	†51	†938
Western Areas	*2,090	13,037	13,713	14,007
Western Deep	39,122	61,416	59,515	54,373
Western Holdings§	‡37,615	‡37,625	‡102,524	25,393
Winkelhaak	9,849	11,640	13,907	13,142

* Loss. † After receipt of State aid. ‡ Includes Welkom, FS Saaiplaas and Erfdeel operations. § March quarter tax charge contains retrospective payments for the respective current financial years relating to the increase in gold mina tax announced in the recent South African budget. ¶ Includes Beisa.

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FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

Index linking and pensions

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

I am an employee of a company which has an approved pension scheme where the employee is required to contribute 5 per cent of salary. It is my intention to supplement this by the use of Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs). Would the Inland Revenue approve these contributions being paid to a plan which uses index linked Government stock as a basis and if so are there any insurance companies who offer schemes of this nature?

The Inland Revenue will not interfere with the investments made by an insurance company in respect of a pension scheme and therefore an insurance company is free to invest your additional voluntary contributions in index linked gilts.

Your problem at the present time will be to find an insurance company that will promise you benefits related to the return which it can obtain on investment in index linked gilts. Insurance companies generally have been slow off the mark in devising annuity and self-employed contracts which pass on to policyholders the benefits of investment in index linked gilts.

Backdating of rates

In a reply under Backdating of rates (March 6) you wrote that it might be that water rates can be demanded from the date of occupation, even though the property was not then in the valuation list. My problem is that the cottage I live in was rebuilt in 1970 and given its own water supply. I moved in during 1978 and as I received no demand for water rates for some time, I got into touch with the water authority and was told that I did not have an independent supply, and should negotiate with the neighbouring farmhouse, through which I received my rates. I pointed out this was not the case in correspondence and an actual visit, but to no avail and I am worried lest one of these days I may get a demand for back rates. What should I do?

Your better course is to do nothing, as it seems that the water authority would be estopped from seeking to raise a demand other than for a current rating period by their representation to you that the supply is on the meter of the main farm. You should carefully preserve all correspondence and notes of your conversations in which you have sought to clarify the position.

Tax and loan in the U.S.

I have a loan with a bank in U.S.A. to purchase U.S. stocks held by the bank together with dividends used (partly) to reduce the loan and interest. What is my tax position regarding (1) Dividends not remitted to this country. (2) Capital Gains similarly not remitted here. (3) Double-taxation relief? Would the position be different if it were a U.S. brokers' loan or margin account? I am resident in this country and a British subject.

We take it that, as well as being ordinarily resident in the UK, you are domiciled in England and Wales (or in Scotland or in Northern Ireland). That being so, your U.S. dividends and capital gains are assessable to UK tax, subject to credit for the 15 per cent U.S. tax withheld from the dividends. No relief is obtainable in respect of the loan interest (except possibly, for 1981-82 and earlier years, if the loan was made to you before March 27 1974). The position would be virtually the same if you had borrowed from a broker instead of a bank.

The complex and arbitrary rules of assessment are to be found in sections 122 to 124 and 510 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, as amended. You may like to consult, say, the British Tax Encyclopedia or Simon's Taxes in a local reference library.

Costs of EEC court hearing

In a recent county court hearing relating to the non-payment of a levy imposed by statute, all concerned, plaintiff's counsel, defendant's counsel and judge agreed that the matter was properly referable to the European Court, thus making a piece of British legal history. In this event who meets the cost of the EEC court hearing?

The person making the reference to the European Court would normally have to bear his or her own costs.

Responsibility for window cleaner

We have a country house which is often shut. A window cleaner comes every week and gives the windows the once-over. After he has done the front of the house in order to get to the back he gets on top of the garage roof, drags up his ladder and over he goes. The back of the house being done, he retraces his steps by the same method. Supposing he goes through the roof and breaks his neck or at least a leg. Who is responsible? Would we be liable for damages etc.?

It is difficult to predict before an accident where the responsibility would lie. It may indeed be shared by virtue of the doctrine of contributory negligence. You would, however, be wise to ensure that your household insurance includes cover for occupier's liability.

A discretionary trust

My children have recently inherited sums of money from an uncle and a grandmother, both of which are to be held in trust for them until they attain their majority. My wife and her brother are the trustees. The Inland Revenue have advised them that the trusts are discretionary ones and the incomes are liable to tax at basic rate plus 15 per cent. What steps, if any, can be taken to recover the tax (the children have no other income), and if the money is invested for capital growth or in "granny bonds," would there be liability to C.G.T. both during the life of the trust and when they receive the capital?

Without knowing the precise wording of the two wills, we cannot be quite sure whether each trust's income is indeed chargeable to tax at 45 per cent (under section 16 of the Finance Act 1973), but presumably the trustees are satisfied that the inspector is right.

If the trustees' powers enable them to do so, the solution (from the tax angle) would be to make discretionary payments of income to the children, under deduction of 45 per cent tax (in accordance with section 17 of the 1973 Act). With the aid of the trustees' tax certificates R185, you could claim repayment of the tax suffered on each child's discretionary payments (assuming that the total gross equivalent paid to each child is unlikely to exceed the basic personal allowance, each year) or at least a substantial part of it.

If by chance the trust income also suffers tax outside the UK, you should look also at section 18 of the 1973 Act (and then perhaps come back to us, with more facts and figures, for further guidance).

On the assumption mentioned in our first paragraph, the trustees are indeed assessable to C.G.T., subject to an annual exemption limit of £1,500 for each of the two will trusts (under paragraph 6 of schedule 1 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, as amended in 1980). National savings certificates are exempt from tax (under section 34 of the Finance Act 1981), but are unlikely to be an appropriate investment, in the circumstances outlined. As each child reaches 18, a gain will be deemed, under section 54 of the C.G.T. Act.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Lobbying for bed and breakfast

IF YOU are still confused about the implications of indexation of capital gains tax on your share portfolio, you can take a crumb of comfort from the Stock Exchange. This week Sir Nicholas Goodison attacked the way the Government planned to introduce indexation of capital gains tax describing the proposals as "nonsense."

In a bid to change the Chancellor's mind the Stock Exchange has written a six-page memorandum outlining the amendments it would like to see included in the Finance Bill. These amendments would, the Exchange feels, vastly simplify the whole matter while conforming with the spirit behind the Chancellor's budget proposals.

The Stock Exchange would like the Chancellor to establish a base date of April 6, 1981, from which all capital gains on assets held for more than a year would be indexed. This means investors would have to discover the value of their assets as on April 6 1981 and this would be assumed to be the purchase or cost price for capital gains tax purposes.

Secondly, the Stock Exchange feels the ending of pooling arrangements and the separate identification of acquisitions is too onerous a burden to place on investors in return for the admittedly beneficial gain of indexation. The memorandum argues that it was unnecessary to include the old rules of identification from the 1971 legislation which would effectively put a stop to bed and breakfasting shares.

The rule on identification which the Exchange objects to is a clause which states that shares acquired in one period will be identified with those sold in that period. In the case of shares a "period" refers to the Stock Exchange account which is a two week (occasionally three-week) period during which bargaining in equities is transacted for settlement all on one day (about ten days after the last dealing day).

This hit at the basis of bed and breakfasting which involved an investor selling shares one night and buying them back the next day. This practice had been widespread and was used as an effective method of establishing a gain or loss for tax purposes.

Although the Stock Exchange's proposals would go some way towards reducing the complexities of indexation of capital gains, they still leave one gaping hole. No attempt by the Stock Exchange has been made to persuade the Government that it is inequitable to index gains but not losses.

Rosemary Burr

Have Eurocheque, will travel

THE decision by the clearers to ban the use of existing cheque guarantee cards abroad from May 1983 may be a blessing in disguise. For it has forced the banks to reconsider the facilities they offer customers travelling abroad.

Midland Bank was quick off the mark with an announcement that it will introduce Eurocheques to fill the gap left by withdrawing the facility to use existing guarantee cards abroad. Barclays already gives its customers a special overseas encashment card to be used with their sterling chequebook as Barclaycard is not acceptable outside the UK as a cheque guarantee card.

Lloyds has decided to issue customers with a Eurocheque encashment card that can be used overseas with their sterling cheques. The bank says this option is "more practical and economic for the customer." National Westminster is still considering what approach to adopt.

There are several advantages to introducing the Eurocheque system. The cheques can be written directly in local currency including sterling. They are acceptable in over 4.5m retail outlets in 20 countries as well as at more than 180,000 branches of 15,000 banks in 39 countries, mostly in Continental Europe.

In addition, the amount of money that can be drawn per cheque is higher than under the existing system. Each cheque can be written for the equivalent of £75, since this is the standard European figure.

Mr John Brooks, Midland's deputy group chief executive, says: "Over 80 per cent of the 19m UK residents now travelling abroad each year go to Europe. Our decision to join the uniform Eurocheque Scheme will provide Midland customers with the benefit of the best money transfer systems available on the Continent."

For the moment, it looks as if Midland customers will be the only ones to benefit from this week's ban. Barclays, which is under no pressure to react as it already makes alternative arrangements for customers travelling abroad, says it has no plans to introduce Eurocheques.

However, if Midland customers respond favourably to Eurocheques the other clearers may face growing pressure to follow suit.

R.B.

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS—1

William Hall reports on a problem facing many house buyers

When you can't get the key of the door

ITS A NIGHTMARE anyone moving house must be familiar with. The removal van has been blocking the quiet cul-de-sac in East Grinstead for three hours, much to the neighbours' annoyance, and the new owner anxiously waits for the solicitor to deliver the key.

Another couple of hours pass and still no key. Removal men drift off to the pub and the owner rings his solicitor for the fifth time, only to hear that *money has still not arrived* and it will therefore be impossible to release key that day.

Wife plus children arrive shortly afterwards tired after long drive down motorway. Wife bursts into tears, children throw a tantrum. Removal men return from pub a little the worse for wear, and announce that they are going back to Liverpool with the van plus furniture.

The trouble is that the nightmare has an element of truth for too many people changing house, especially when they are at the end of a long chain of conveyancing which must be completed on the same day. The money does not turn up on the day promised, and the solicitor is not able to release the key.

The solicitor blames the bank for its inefficiency and the bank blames the solicitor who did not give *them enough warning.*

For most people unversed in the ways of Britain's branch banking system it is difficult to understand why it takes six hours to transfer money from Potters Bar to Stoke Newington. But there are cases where this has happened and woe betide anyone who does not give his bank instructions to transfer money before lunchtime, the solicitors warn.

For five years the Law Society, which represents Britain's 40,000 solicitors, has been trying to get the banks to speed up the money transmission service for house purchase. *So far with little success.*

The banks offer a telephonic transfer system but when it involves more than one bank it limits the amounts to more than £10,000 and is not keen to guarantee a transfer taking place at a set time.

The operation takes time and because of security checks involves managers who have to make telephone calls. Even within the branch system of one bank, solicitors say it can take up to eight telephone calls to transfer funds between two places. Many banks feel their managers have better things to do and thus these transactions are given relatively low priority. This explains why funds sometimes do not arrive on the day on which they are supposed.

Whatever the reasons, the *Law Society has become increasingly* concerned about the problems solicitors and their clients face in transferring money.

So this week, the Law Society teamed up with the Trustee Savings Banks (TSBs) to launch a new service, known as Speedsend, which is designed to provide a fast and efficient way of transferring money.

The TSBs have most of their 1,300 branches linked up to a computer and this means that they can short circuit the other banks' telephone system. Provided the instructions are given to the local TSB before 3 pm the funds will be transferred, normally within minutes and the next TSB branch will then ring the other solicitor in the transaction to say the funds have arrived.

The other big advantage of the TSB service is that they are treating as "cleared funds"—bankers drafts, cheques drawn on a solicitor's client account or cheques drawn on a building society. This means that the money is immediately available where in the case of a bank such funds take two business days to be "cleared" after arrival in an account—another impediment to a speedy service.

The big clearing banks are not *particularly impressed* by the new scheme and say that they can provide just as efficient a service if asked. But the Law Society says that have yet to show their mettle. For most people buying a house is the biggest investment they ever make and they cannot afford mistakes.

The society had suggested that to get round the delays banks should be prepared to accept pre-dated cheques. But the banks, always on the lookout for sharp solicitors, said they need to be indemnified if anything went wrong.

The TSB are anxious to build up their presence in this market. And they have agreed to shoulder some of the risk although they have said that if solicitors are merely going to use the mas transmitting agents *the scheme is likely to be short* lived. It is hoped that solicitors using the scheme will lodge reasonable sums of money with them.

On lawyer estimates that there are around 2m conveyancings a year and—at say an average £20,000 a time—this mounts up to £40bn a year in money transmission business.

TSB keeps its options open

UNIT TRUSTS

ROSEMARY BURR

TSB

THE TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK has shown it is no slouch with unit trusts. In the 14 years since the launch of the group's first unit trust, TSB General, it has grown to be the seventh largest group with funds under management of over £250m.

In terms of performance the group's high flier has been its five-year-old income trust which has been among the top handful of income trusts during the past few years. The income trust is managed by Howard Smith, the man chosen to run the group's latest addition to its stable, the TSB Selected Opportunities trust.

The launch this week of the Selected Opportunities trust marks a further step along the route to broadening the group's range of trusts to provide a host of specialised funds. This process began last September with the establishment of an American and a Pacific fund. One more trust is likely to emerge before the end of this year and a further addition is slated for early next year.

In the past most of the TSB trusts have been sold direct from the bank's branches to TSB customers. This time, however, the group is hoping to persuade stockbrokers to spread the word about the new trust. As only 5 per cent of the TSB's 6m customers invest in the group's unit trust there is clearly plenty of scope for some aggressive cross-selling as well.

The aim of the new fund is to maximise capital growth. Howard Smith, the fund manager, says he will try and pick "shares with an above average prospect of capital growth." These include long term plays such as growth stocks in the electronic, electrical and leisure fields; medium-term holds such as star performers in unpopular sectors; and short-term dealings in companies where specific events of a price-sensitive nature occur—such as the launch of a new product.

Smith is also hoping, subject to Department of Trade approval, to dabble in traded options. He stresses the strategy on options will be "fairly conservative" and "based on the portfolio we hold." The fund may also invest up to 20 per cent of the cash in shares traded on the Unlisted Securities Market together with a further 5 per cent in other unlisted or unquoted securities.

Smith admits the fund is "above average risk" and not suitable for "first-timers" without a unit trust holding. The group's two other specialised funds have so far attracted £400,000 each but the TSB will be disappointed if this new offspring does not rake in closer to a million.

The fees on the fund are *standard.* There is a 5 per cent initial fee and an annual management fee of ¾ per cent. The *minimum* holding is relatively small compared to the industry's average at £250. The initial yield is likely to be 4.6 per cent. As the fund will be managed with capital gains in mind, the yield is likely to vary from year to year.

The Association of Investment Trust Companies — THE INVESTMENT TRUST TABLE

The figures in the columns below are based on information supplied by the companies named, which are members of The Association of Investment Trust Companies. The figures are unaudited.

Columns (1)–(5): as at close of business on Monday 19th April 1982. Columns (6)–(10): as at 31st March 1982.

Total Assets less current liabilities (1) £ million	Company (2)	Share Price (3) pence	Yield (4) %	Net Asset Value (5) pence	Geographical Spread: UK (6) %	Nth. Amer. (7) %	Japan (8) %	Other (9) %	Gearing Factor (10) base=100	Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.3.82 (11) base=100
	VALUATION MONTHLY									
205	Alliance Trust	284	5.7	396	53	37	4	6	96	178
163	British Invest. Trust	182	7.0	265	64	30	5	1	88	166
54	First Scottish American Trust	120	5.8	165	61	27	11	1	101	175
89	Great Northern Invest. Trust	142	6.7	180	68	18	6	6	94	179
107	Investors Capital Trust	102	4.4	150	43	37	13	7	97	159
8	New Darien Oil Trust	72	0.3	76	3	84	–	13	85	†
65	Northern American Trust Co.	132	5.4	180	59	29	11	1	104	177
25	River Plate & General Invest. Trust	110	7.1	156	76	10	–	14	97	235
14	xSave & Prosper Linked Invest. Trust	106	–	184	100	–	–	–	156	165
172	Scottish Invest. Trust	124	5.3	163	42	36	9	13	99	174
†	Scottish Northern Invest. Trust	89	5.5	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
132	Scottish United Investors	48	4.7	70	35	41	9	15	103	163
69	Second Alliance Trust	236	5.6	346	53	37	4	6	98	179
†	Shires Invest. Co.	129	13.1	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
108	United States Debenture Corporation	111	7.6	155	72	28	–	–	101	†
	Baillie Gifford & Co.									
174	Scottish Mortgage & Trust	149	5.1	213	38	43	11	8	100	169
79	Monks Invest. Trust	67	5.1	96	35	38	16	11	104	171
16	Winterbottom Energy Trust	55	1.7	62	7□	87	–	6	94	128
8	Baillie Gifford Japan Trust	73	0.0	80	–	–	100	–	76	†
3	Mid Wynd International Invest. Trust	52	4.7	67	22	42	22	14	93	†
	Baring Bros. & Co. Ltd.									
52	Outwich Invest. Trust	60	5.3s	89	63	15	9	13	109	161
34	Tribune Invest. Trust	92	4.7	134	41	32	11	16	100	167
	Drayton Montagu Portfolio Mngt. Ltd.									
9	British Indust. & Gen. Invest. Trust	133	5.4	169	46	13	16	25	92	144
4	City & Foreign Invest. Co.	76	0.0	99	2	98	–	–	85	†
59	Drayton Commercial Invest. Co.	143	3.0	214	49	25	13	13	87	†
84	Drayton Consolidated Trust	153	7.4	238	59	16	12	13	92	144
12	Drayton Far Eastern Trust	56	3.2	70	20	2	41	37	72	†
95	Drayton Premier Invest. Trust	196	7.8	302	62	18	11	9	91	†
17	English and International Trust	110	7.1	155	63	18	10	9	94	159
7	Montagu Boston Invest. Trust	66	3.2	72	–	100	–	–	80	†
17	xCity and Commercial Invest. Trust	254	–	325	95	4	1	–	144	†
16	xDualvest plc	448	–	573	75	8	1	16	126	200
14	xFundinvest plc	114	–	164	93	4	2	1	127	193
43	xTriplevest plc	330	–	498	82	10	1	7	128	†
	East of Scotland Invest. Managers Ltd.									
61	Aberdeen Trust	140	6.2	178	79	18	1	2	102	186
	Edinburgh Fund Managers Ltd.									
78	American Trust	61	5.3*	85	43	56	–	1	101	181
19	Crescent Japan Invest. Trust	263	0.6	278	–	–	100	–	94	164
18	General Scottish Trust	61	7.2	81	64	24	7	5	104	196
4	New Australia Invest. Trust	76	2.8	73	–	–	–	100	100	†
10	New Tokyo Invest. Trust	97	0.0	104	–	–	100	–	98	†
10	Wemyss Invest. Trust	363	7.9	438	56	27	–	17	87	149
	Electra House Group									
129•	Electra Invest. Trust	57	7.5	71	55	36	–	9	104	206
366	Globe Invest. Trust	139	7.7	167	62	23	4	11	107	195
45	Temple Bar Invest. Trust	81	9.3	76	93	5	–	2	99	181
	F & C Group									
33	Alliance Invest. Co.	89	4.3	119	60	17	14	9	108	221
32	Cardinal Invest. Trust	84	5.6	120	61	17	5	17	107	200
6	F & C Eurotrust	51	4.1	64	16	2	–	82	112	117
258	Foreign & Colonial Invest. Trust	59	4.9	85	53	22	15	10	110	189
42	General Investors & Trustees	165	5.7	232	56	15	4	23	107	270
	Fidelity International									
1	xCystic Fibrosis Research Invest. Trust	101	–	132	92	3	3	2	153	†
	Robert Fleming Investment Mngt. Ltd.									
36	Capital & National Trust	164	1.5*	234	72	15	4	9	99	183
17	Claverhouse Invest. Trust	127	7.4	169	99	–	–	1	100	247
15•	Crossfriars Trust	116	8.0	150	99	–	–	1	93	223
10	Fledgeling Investments	63	5.0	77	88	10	–	2	96	334
79	Guardian Invest. Trust Co.	103	1.8	154	75	10	9	6	100	184
47	London & Holyrood Trust	151	5.7	213	68	19	4	9	99	177
34	London & Montrose Invest. Trust	117	4.6	140	61	23	5	11	96	175
63	London & Provincial Trust	167	4.8	200	61	24	4	11	98	169
133	Mercantile Invest. Trust	53	7.0	82	52	30	7	11	98	196
52	Sterling Trust	215	2.8	303	69	20	7	4	100	165
40	Technology Invest. Trust	147	4.2	202	61	29	9	1	99	189
97	United British Securities Trust	154	6.5	218	47	31	5	17	91	173
30	United States & General Trust Corp.	302	5.4	361	75	16	4	5	97	179
	GT Management Ltd.									
33	Berry Trust	152	1.6	179	49	28	18	9	102	269
1	xChild Health Research Invest. Trust	141	–	148	49	31	4	16	90	†
8	GT Global Recovery Invest. Trust	73	1.5	80	54	19	2	25	89	†
19	GT Japan Invest. Trust	278	2.3	307	15□	4	77	4	79	195
11	Northern Securities Trust	230	2.7	292	45	30	13	12	93	236
	Gartmore Investment Mngt. Ltd.									
10	xAltifund plc	184	0.3	228	92	2	3	3	119	240
33	Anglo Scottish Invest. Trust	64	5.4	91	55	34	3	8	103	190
38	English & Scottish Investors	59	4.4*	85	45	32	11	12	103	207
11	Group Investors	97	4.6	136	50	41	5	4	100	216
8	London & Gartmore Invest. Trust	115	1.9	144	31	33	7	29	121	167
11	London & Lennox Invest. Trust	43	6.3	61	60	29	–	11	100	169
29	London & Lomond Invest. Trust	99	5.8	145	68	28	2	2	99	195
15	London & Strathclyde Trust	70	4.5	91	60	32	–	6	106	186
19	Meldrum Invest. Trust	78	6.5	97	94	3	–	3	100	244
	Gartmore Investment (Scotland) Ltd.									
100	Scottish National Trust	96	5.1	141	59	24	6	11	109	176
25	Glasgow Stockholders Trust	73	4.6	101	59	29	–	12	109	178
	John Govett & Co. Ltd.									
114	Border & Southern Stockholders Trust	76	5.2	111	59	17	15	9	94	180
16	General Stockholders Invest. Trust	148	3.9	208	47	38	10	5	96	170
86	Lake View Invest. Trust	132	4.2	179	44	11	26	19	100	180
86	Stockholders Invest. Trust	132	4.0	163	32	53	9	6	96	176
	Hambro Group									
31	Bishopsgate Trust	85	5.7	124	60	30	6	4	100	198
6	City of Oxford Invest. Trust	103	7.6	138	99	1	–	–	100	249
73•	Hambros Invest. Trust	86	5.0	124	52	41	4	3	106	233
8	xRosedimond Invest. Trust	145	–	173	100	–	–	–	–	232
	Henderson Administration Ltd.									
170	Witan Invest. Co.	67	4.4	95	56	23	16	5	105	193
29	Electric & General Invest. Co.	112	3.3	156	52	32	9	7	96	186
9	Greenfriar Invest. Co.	178	1.8	220	57	21	11	11	106	237
9	Lowland Invest. Co.	90	6.9	112	91	–	–	9	99	254
	Philip Hill (Management) Ltd.									
14	General & Commercial Invest. Trust	247	5.4	256	70	24	–	6	97	191
31	General Consolidated Invest. Trust	119	7.7	161	68	26	–	6	96	190
176	Philip Hill Invest. Trust	128	6.8	178	74	22	–	4	95	212
8	Moorgate Invest. Trust	155	6.8	176	89	7	–	4	96	282
46	Nineteen Twenty-Eight Invest. Trust	90	7.0	122	56	39	–	5	95	169
	Industrial & Commercial Fin. Corpn. Ltd.									
14	London Atlantic Invest. Trust	88	7.7	119	76	11	–	13	94	224
9	North British Canadian Invest. Co.	114	6.4	137	94	2	–	4	98	333
	Ivory & Sime Ltd.									
58	Atlantic Assets Trust	56	0.6s	74	56	41	–	3	90	336
†	British Assets Trust	95	6.6	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
60	Edinburgh American Assets Trust	95	1.3	120	21	68	6	6	108	220
42	Independent Invest. Co.	130	0.5	147	27	70	–	3	96	†
†	Japan Assets Trust	17	0.0	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
†	Viking Resources Trust	76	1.5	†	†	†	†	†	†	†

Total Assets less current liabilities (1) £ million	Company (2)	Share Price (3) pence	Yield (4) %	Net Asset Value (5) pence	Geographical Spread: UK (6) %	Nth. Amer. (7) %	Japan (8) %	Other (9) %	Gearing Factor (10) base=100	Total Return on N.A.V. over 5 years to 31.3.82 (11) base=100
	Kleinwort Benson Investment Mngt. Ltd.									
35	British American & General Trust	50	7.2	69	55	34	7	4	92	†
39	Brunner Invest. Trust	75	5.7	103	50	36	8	8	95	211
43	Charter Trust & Agency	75	6.5	104	63	25	7	5	100	183
53	English & New York Trust	92	6.6	130	57	32	5	6	92	†
6	Family Invest. Trust	102	8.4	132	98	1	–	1	97	†
4	Jos Holdings	70	7.0	90	82	14	1	3	94	†
9	London Prudential Invest. Trust	105	6.6	140	69	21	7	3	98	†
69	Merchants Trust	92	6.4	134	59	27	8	6	91	†
	Lazard Bros. & Co. Ltd.									
63	Raeburn Invest. Trust	157	6.3	232	59	30	5	6	94	166
51	Romney Trust	111	5.7	167	31	42	17	10	101	167
	Murray Johnstone Ltd.									
71	Murray Caledonian Invest. Trust	74	7.7*	104	64	21	7	8	100	189
99	Murray Clydesdale Invest. Trust	63	3.9*	93	42	43	10	5	96	171
27	Murray Glendevon Invest. Trust	134	2.9*	187	50	36	8	6	99	180
31	Murray Northern Invest. Trust	74	3.6*	108	29	31	17	23	102	173
113	Murray Western Invest. Trust	82	4.3*	119	41	44	10	5	90	176
	Rivermoor Management Services Ltd.									
†	London Trust Co.	73	6.9	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
16	Moorside Trust	63	7.9	80	53	39	1	7	95	179
41	River & Mercantile Trust	129	8.3	169	72	11	5	12	101	215
	J. Rothschild Invest. Management Ltd.									
184•	RIT plc	373	5.4	477	59□	20□	7□	14	73	249
28	Ailsa Invest. Trust	43	5.2	53	50	28	8	14	89	†
9	Precious Metals Trust	79	0.0	78	27□	54	1	18	59	†
	J. Henry Schroder Wagg Group									
29	Ashdown Invest. Trust	183	5.2	262	49	41	7	3	95	173
40	Broadstone Invest. Trust	194	5.5	283	51	40	5	4	92	181
66	Continental & Industrial Trust	266	6.2	379	50	47	–	3	97	174
40	Trans-Oceanic Trust	74	4.8	109	38	46	9	7	94	175
	Stewart Fund Managers Ltd.									
99•	Scottish American Invest. Co.	131	4.8	177	54	34	4	8	94	223
6	Stewart Enterprise Invest. Co.	31	1.8	35	81□	12	–	7	40	†
	Throgmorton Invest. Management Ltd.									
13	xThrogmorton Secured Growth Trust	124	–	203	100	–	–	–	–	146
65	Throgmorton Trust	115	7.5	149	99	1	–	–	103	297
	Touche Remnant & Co.									
43	Bankers' Invest. Trust	65	6.6	110	73	18	5	4	99	188
42	Cedar Invest. Trust	100	6.8	125	72	11	5	12	92	186
20	TR Australia Invest. Trust	105	4.8	138	56	15	5	24	99	193
54	TR City of London Trust	80	8.9	110	95	2	–	3	96	202
246	TR Industrial & General Trust	72	6.0	105	66	17	7	10	106	195
72	TR Natural Resources Invest. Trust	153	6.3	223	67	21	5	7	106	167
40	TR North America Invest. Trust	157	5.7	223	55	32	3	10	103	178
51	TR Pacific Basin Invest. Trust	92	3.1	139	71	14	10	5	99	174
51	TR Property Invest. Trust	76	4.1	109	64	20	7	9	105	198
145	TR Technology Invest. Trust	88	5.4	129	62	21	7	10	102	208
92	TR Trustees Corporation	67	6.3	97	76	12	3	9	106	204
	Williams & Glyn's Bank Ltd.									
3	Atlanta, Baltimore & Chicago	66	2.2	85	16□	84	–	–	91	136
3	West Coast & Texas Regional	80	2.3	100	13□	87	–	–	95	133
	VALUATION THREE MONTHLY									
20	Dundee & London Invest. Trust	91	6.3	120	78	14	7	3	96	196
4	Lancashire & London Invest. Trust	71	5.8	84	83	17	–	–	76	†
10	Oil & Associated Invest. Trust	76	6.6	98	64	31	–	5	95	155
15	Safeguard Industrial Investments	106	7.8	137	100	–	–	–	98	226
13	Scottish Cities Invest. Trust	257	6.4	362	89	8	–	3	75	†
14	Scottish & Mercantile Invest. Co.	180	6.3	240	87	13	–	–	99	†
21	Yeoman Invest. Trust	125	7.7	164	83	11	2	4	95	208
†	Young Companies Invest. Trust	135	6.3	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
	Ivory & Sime Ltd.									
†	First Charlotte Assets Trust	10	0.0	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
†	North Sea Assets	127	2.8	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
	Morgan Grenfell Ltd.									
110	Anglo-American Securities Corp.	130	6.6	185	68	24	10	8	96	163
32	North Atlantic Securities Corp.	129	3.0	161	16	44	22□	18□	84	155

NOTES TO THE TABLE

- – No data.
- x Split capital trust (capital shares).
- * Applies to Ordinary/"A" Ordinary only.
- s Does not include special dividend.
- □ More than one quarter in non-equity investments.
- • More than 20% in securities or other assets included at directors' valuation.
- ac Adjusted for scrip issue.
- ar Adjusted for rights issue.

(a) Cols. 1, 3 to 5: Figures supplied by Wood Mackenzie & Co., members of The Stock Exchange. Col. 1 to nearest £1m; Cols. 3 & 5 to nearest penny per share.

(b) Cols. 1, 5: Statistics simulated to date shown based on latest valuations supplied by the companies and made available to The Stock Exchange. In these valuations listed securities are valued at mid-market prices and unlisted at directors' valuation. All revenue account items are excluded.

(c) Col. 4: Based on last declared dividend or firm forecast, plus tax credit, to nearest 0.1 per cent.

(d) Cols. 8 to 9: Percentages of total assets less current liabilities. Currency balances are allocated to the relevant geographical sector.

(e) Col. 10: The gearing factor indicates the percentage amount by which the net asset value per share would rise if the value of the equity assets increased by 100 per cent. Further explanation is given in the booklet "Investment Trusts today".

(f) Cols. 5, 11: Prior charges and preference share capital deducted at market value; convertible stocks deemed to be converted; warrants treated as not exercised.

(g) Col. 11: Figures supplied by AITC Statistics Service, to nearest one per cent. A full description of the information shown in this column is given in the Investment Trust Year Book. In summary, the figures show the percentage changes in the net asset values over the period assuming that dividends paid, excluding tax credit, were reinvested in the underlying assets of the company.

INDICES OF FIVE YEAR TOTAL RETURN

General Trust Average	192
F.T.-Actuaries All Share	227
*Standard & Poors Composite	91
*Capital International World	98

*Adjusted for exchange rate changes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Use of total return statistics and care in interpretation

The total return statistic, which adjusts the net asset values for dividends, excluding tax credit, distributed during the period, enables companies with substantially different capital growth and dividend policies to be more fairly compared. A period of five years provides a good indication of trends and, in normal circumstances, should cover a traditional bull and bear market in the major stock markets.

Each total return figure is indexed from a base of 100 at the commencement of the period and records the movement between two particular dates. Any particular total return figure may thus be affected by exceptional factors, operative at either the base date or at the final date, which were influencing the stock market generally or a sector of the market in which the company was interested. The geographical distribution *of a particular company's portfolio should be considered in assessing its relative performance.*

While the total return statistic, if used with care, provides a valuable guide to past experience which can assist comparison of one company with another, or the trust movement with other investment media, it *should always be borne in mind that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future achievement.*

The total return statistic for split capital trusts is not comparable with that for other companies because of the difference in capital structure. The split capital trusts have therefore been identified in the Table and are not included in the General Trust Average index figure.

Calculations of NAV

In order to avoid a plethora of figures and to facilitate comparability, the statistics of net asset value have been calculated on a uniform basis which may, in the case of a particular company, differ from the *corresponding figures in its Annual Report and Accounts.*

The net asset value is calculated on the "going concern" basis, ie with prior charges deducted at market value, as it is believed that this basis is the most widely accepted for comparative purposes.

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS-2

As League football faces its worst cash crisis for years, Terry Garrett reports on how the investor can help

If your goal is a directorship . . .

IF YOU want a seat in the director's box at Ashton Cate next seasoo you had better act quick. Friday is the last day to subscribe for shares in BCFC (1982), the new company formed in an attempt to save Bristol City Football Club. Write a cheque out for £10,000 and you can mingle with the directors in the guest room. There is just a little hitcb. Other loyal supporters will bave to part with £150,000 or so in tbe next few days. If not, hopes of ruhbing shoulders with the chairman are about as good as a ball over the bar.

The cover on the prospectus to the share issue is nothing if not brutally to the point "Now or oever" it proclaims along with an artist's impression of a group of fans waving red and white scarves — but hold it, perhaps those are the weekly revenue statements covered in red ink.

The issue is part of an 11th hour rescue plan launched last February as the old club tottered under the weight of £1½m. of debt. It is a rescue of football, and not the old club which has been thrown to the liquidator. Creditors can expect 60p or so in the pound, while eight of the top, and moat expensive, players, are off lookiog for new jobs.

This is a brand new club which is asking for money to buy the stadium.

Before whipping out the cheque book be aware that investing in BCFC (1982) is a bit like giviog money to charity. The prospectus statement that "The shares may not produce a financial dividend" is not an idle warning and the directors' belief that "the rewards of top quality football will more than compensate" can only be left to the spectators to judge. With eigbt players gone and the team down to a rather youthful squad (average age 20) a return to the First Division could be a long way off.

Bristol's problems are not isolated. For years talk of the financial plight of foothall has been second only to discussing the referee's qualifications for a pair of thick pebble spectacles.

Gates have halved since the post-war era and are still falling while clubs in general have been overpaying the players with an abandon seldom seen outside nationalised industries. Football has been living by kind permission of the bank managers and alarming cash deficits have been brought to a head in the winter freeze up.

The plight of Bristol is being replayed to a greater or lesser extent right across the country —a receiver for Hull City, Halifax Town up for aale and a host of otbers examining new revenue methods and cutting overheads.

Bristol's financial failure was compounded by its defeat on the field. From a First Division run from 1976 to 1979 the team fell through the Second in 1980 into the Third in 1981. Gates fell from 25,000 a week to 5,000 while its team, to a large extent, was still picking up First Division wages of £30,000 to £40,000 a man.

The new club hopes to raise £650,000 to buy the Asbton Gate and get things going again.

The directors are putting up £50,000, a further £300,000 is expected to come in loans — £100,000 from a brewery, £150,00 0from the bank and £50,000 from local companies — and £300,000 from the public share issue.

The issue is split between Foundation shares, £10,000 or more and you start getting in the directors' box, and supporters shares where for the £10 minimum one share gets yon 10 per ceot of a terrace seasoo ticket.

The cluh has churned out 29,000 prospectuses but so far only £129,000 has been subscribed, just under half way there. The management has been promised some big money next week but the directors are left sweating.

If the issue fails, which means all bets are off and subscribers' money is returned, the club might still survive. A couple of wealthy locals have expressed interest in buying the ground and leasing it to the club. Yet nothing is definite and tbe roar of crowds may give way to the roar of demolition bulldozers.

Sweet talking Tate and Lyle

WHO ARE BRITAIN'S best informed pension scheme members? According to the National Association of Pension Funds, they are to be found in orgaoisations as varied as Tate and Lyle, Reardon Smith and the University of York.

This week brought the secood annual award ceremony for the NAPF's Golden Pen competition to find the best pension scheme annual reports. The scbeme was introduced in order to encourage NAPF members to apruce up botb the content and appearance of their annual reports—which for many years had ranged from the inedequate to the invisible.

Pension schemes operate under trust laws wbicb simply do not provide for the regular disseminatioo of information to beneficiaries. The Wilson Committee several years ago called for a pension scheme Act that would require statutory reporting. But that is not on the horizon, and in the meantime the NAPF has tried to fill the vacuum with a code of practice and a set of awards. But what pension schemes choose to do is very mucb a voluntary matter.

The 1982 contest had 150 entries — a few down on last time, probably reflecting the recognition by some of the 1981 hopefuls that they were simply not in the running.

According to Henry James, director general of the NAPF, the response has been satisfactory. "The standards were certainly higher than last year," he says, suggesting that the reports were much more comprehensive, features better laid out, and were written in less formal language.

Big schemes could enter in two categories — formal and popular — though the judges complained that it was sometimes hard to decide which class a report should be put into. There was a separate category for small schemes with under 500 members. Although the emblem of the awards is a fancy quill pen, winners actually get a gold-coloured Parker.

The maio prize was carried off on Thursday by Tate & Lyle, who submitted the best formal report. T & L'a effort was described by the judges as "authoritative, comprehensive and confidence-inspiring." The runner-up, evidently in a very close race, was Debenhams, with Reed International, last year's winner, receiving a commendation.

The small scheme award went to Reardon Smith, with a commendation for a concise effort from the University of York which was described as "custom built for its purpose."

As for the popular category, the clear winner was the "positive, pungent and personal" production of the £115m. BICC fund. Entitled Pensions Special, this was in newspaper format, and as well as detailing the statistics it carried stories on improvements to the scheme. Last year, for instance, BICC based pensions on average final year's earnings rather than on an average of the final three years. There was also an extra 10 per cent boost for pensions started before 1970, wbicb bad suffered severely in real terms from inflation.

Why has BICC made a particular effort? Pensions manager John Dennis says that it helps to make members feel it is a good fund, and there is a need to respond to wbat other schemes are doing in the area of communications.

Until two years ago BICC circulated a formal annual report to all scheme members. Now members have to ask for the formal report—a thousand of which have been printed. "But very few write in," said Dennis. The report has been produced as very much of a marginal cost exercise—being edited by an in-house specialist, and distributed as an inset to the company newspaper.

Barry Riley

Choosing the American way

ONE OF the keys to picking investment winners is getting the timing right. While many people are saying this is "the year to buy British," Murray Johnstooe, the second largest investment managers in Scottand, is propagating the gospel of Reagan's America.

Michael Watherston, executive director, who heads up the group's U.S. activities, bas this week been selling the virtues as he sees them of a new fund, Murray American. This is an authorised unit trust aiming at a combination of growth in capital and income. The estimated initial gross yield is 4 per cent.

Watherston admits now ia not exactly the right time to plunge into the U.S. equity market but argues "our hypothesis is that the UK has already come good. The U.S. is just about a year behind the UK. We think the UK market has anticipated a lot of productivity increases whereas in the U.S. they have not got roun dto thinking about this yet."

So what will Murray Johnstone do with the money it gets into the fund? The initial tactic will be to put a large proportion into government bonds. Watherston explains "the money will go straight into U.S. Treasury long-bonds where there is a deep discount and the yield is about 13½ per cent. Since we expect inflation to be down to 4 or 5 per cent by the end of this year we think these are a very safe bet."

Of course, once "we see equity opportunities," Watherston continues, "the money will be switched out of bonds." Since tbe fund ia obliged to pay out all its income by way of dividends, this policy may be modified slightly in order to avoid an erratic dividend payout.

This balance would be achieved by investing in zero coupon boods where there is no yield but a bigber potential capital gain. However, at the moment, the tax treatment of these bonds for UK bolders is unclear.

When it comes to picking equities Murray Johnstone claims to bave a unique system based on wbat it calls "screen testing." This metbod has been used to back up the group's strategy in its 13-year-old offsbore dollar denominated fund wbicb is invested in the American market. This fund bas substantially out-performed the Standard and Poor's composite index over the past five years.

Screen testing involves ranking a sbare according to its place on a risk scale of one to eight and comparing this to its price/earnings ratio. Murray Johnstone bas calculated a matrix plotting risk factors against price and earnings ratios. The group will only buy sbares wbere there is room for the price to rise by 30 per cent lo order to bring the p/e ratio in line with that on the matrix for a company with a specific risk factor.

The minimum investment in the fund is £500 in the form of 1,000 units of 50p. There is a 5 per cent initial fee and an annual management fee of ¾ per cent plus VAT.

With an eye on the current unsettled international environment, Watherston sees the current Falklands crisis as providing more grist to his mill. "The possibility of another election in Britain," he argues, "raises the possibility of a return to exchange control in which case investors in the American market will get the chance nf receiving the dollar premium."

R.B.

Rosemary Burr continues her series

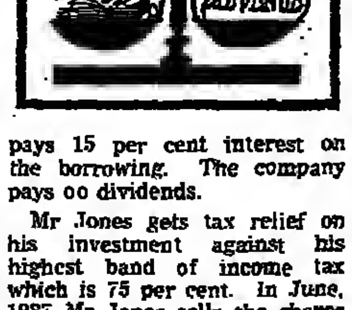
An enterprising start

IF YOU THINK small businesses are a worthwhile channel fnr your casb, then the indexation of capital gains tax combined with the tax relief on borrowings for investment now makes the whole proposition more attractive.

First, you must find a company which is issuing shares which qualify for the business-start-up relief. This is not as easy as it sounds as the qualifying requirements are very rigorous. The basic requirements are met by an unquoted company which has set up trading within the last five years. Then you buy a stake in excess of 5 per cent, as there is no tax relief on your borrowing if your bolding is not above 5 per cent.

To see how it works take the example of Mr Jones who in May of this year pays £30,000 for a 6 per cent holding in the newly set up Funworks. Mr Jones borrows the money to finaoce the share purchase and pays 15 per cent interest on the borrowing. The company pays oo dividends.

The CGT balancing act



Mr Jones gets tax relief on his investment against his highest band of income tax which is 75 per cent. In June, 1987 Mr Jones sells the shares for £52,000. As he has held the shares for more than five years there ia no income tax clawback.

The total cost of Mr Jones's investment was £13,125. This consists of the £7,500 which is the net cost of the shares after tax relief on the purchase at 75 per cent plus £5,625 which is the interest on the loan of £30,000 at the rate of 3.75 per cent. The actual rate of interest on the loan is 15 per ceot hut Mr Jones gets tax relief of 75 per cent on this.

Assuming inflation is running at 10 per cent a year, then the adjusted cost will be £44,000. If you deduct the indexed cost from the sale price, then the remainder is £8,000. Provided Mr Jones bas not used up any of his annual exemption which will also have been indexed in line with the RPI then he will have no CGT to pay on the transaction.

He has made a net profit of £38,875, whereas in gross terms after paying interest of £22,250 he bas more or less broken even.

Source: Touche Ross and Co. provided the illustration.

TRAVEL/MOTORING

Where to look and learn

BY SYLVIE NICKELS

A COLONEL IN LEEDS in 1877 pricked his thumb with the needle of a sewing machine, cootracted blood poisoning and, for his premium of £3 with the Railway Passengers Assurance Company, won compensation of £1,000. The moral of this tale is obvious, so it will come as no surprise that I learned it in the one-room museum of the Chartered Insurance Institute in London's Aldermanbury. The room also contains a fine collection of fire marks of the kind fixed to insured buildings from the late 17th century onwards to help the company's fire brigades identify the place in case of need. Formal postal addresses were rare in those days and presumably it wouldn't do to put out the wrong fires.

But that is by the way. The point is that though the CII's Museum is not the first to leap to mind among London's rich selection, it is one of countless specialist collections dotted about these isles that can provide some very intriguing insights into an extraordinary range of subjects. Some are the accumulatioos of loog-established organisations, otbers the wbims of private collectors.

How about a tombstone museum, for example? There is one near Marlborough, Wilts, collected over seveo successive generations of stonemasons in the village of Great Bedwyn. The inscriptions may not be great literature, but some tell us a good deal more about the departed than tbe terse messages on modern memorials.

If you are a dog lover or a pipe smoker you will no doubt home on to the assemblage of canioe collars at Leeds Castle (Maidstone, Kent), or the House of Pipes (Bramber, near Steyniog, Sussex). The dogs concerned mostly had extremely aristocratic owners and there are masterpieces of craftsmanship, especially of the metal-workers' art of France and Germany in the 17th century. Some of the pipes show artistry, too, and, with 35,000 of them, the museum at Bramber is a veritable shrine to the art of produciog a puff of smoke.

It was also at Bramber that there originated around the mid-19th century a display that is wondrous, grisly or eccentric, depending on your point of view, but certainly skillful whatever else. Now to be fouod in the High Street of Arundel, Sussex, this is Potter's Museum of Curiosity, which is a fair description of the tableaux depicting such themea as The Kitteos' Wedding, The Rabbits' Village School, etc, with stuffed animals of extraordinary realism acting out their varied roles. None, we are assured, was killed to fulfill this destiny.

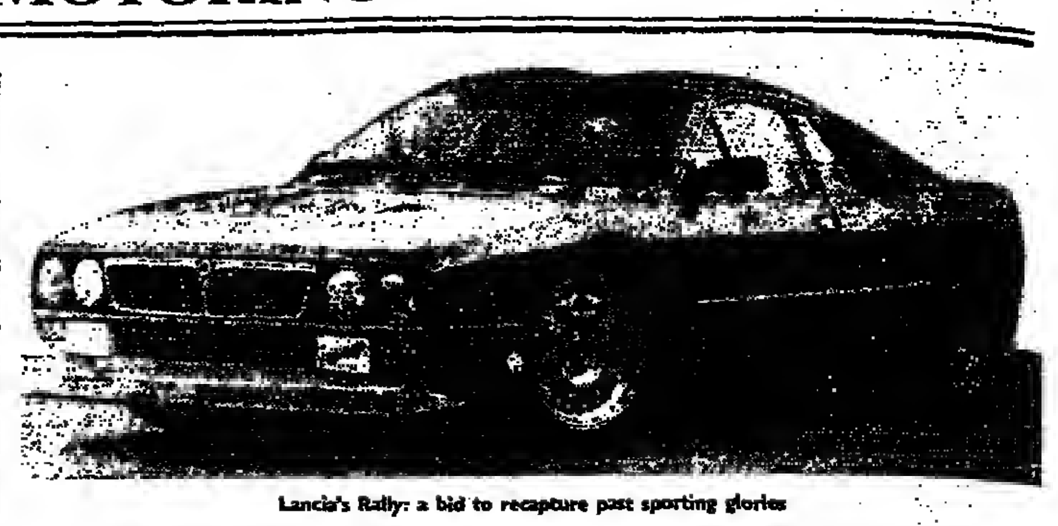
A rather different aspect of the taxidermiat's art is to be seen in the bird room of the Hancock Museum, Newcastle—from all accounts a magnificent display of all aspects of bird life from flight to pellet-identification. It ioludes a stuffed local celebrity: a hudgie called "Sparkie Williams" some of whose considerable vocabulary has been recorded, complete with Geordie accent, for posterity.

Museums devoted to famous individuals, to the arts (cultural and aggressive), to specific periods of history, are legion and, in most cases, the venues well known. Devotees of Jane Austen go to Alton, Hampshire; to Grassmere, Cumbria for Wordsworth; to Ayrshire for Robert Burns.

But the more recent preoccupation with industrial archaeology has thrown up all sorts of strange side shoots cooncerned with the yesterdays of more or less everyday adjuncts to living.

At Great Amwell, near Ware in Hertfordshire there is, for example, a Museum of Street Lighting (open by appointment only) with an attendant exhibition devoted to the Story of Light, its earliest exhibit being a Greek oil lamp from 200 BC.

There is no space to pursue this theme abroad, so I will eod with a little corner of "abroad" set in some very English countryside. This is the American Museum overlooking the green Avon valley above Bath and representing probably the best collectioo of American decorative arts in Europe. There will he more than a whiff nf nostalgia here, too, for our trans-Atlantic visitors, from the home-made cookies and fragrant herb garden.



Lancia's Rally: a bid to recapture past sporting glories

Turbocharged Turin Show

BY STUART MARSHALL

LANCIA made most news at the Turin show which opened on Wednesday. They have three oew models. The most important is the Rally, a limited production supercar intended mainly for competitinn use but also offered as a fairly stark grand tourer. Other significant new Lancias are a four wheel drive version of the Delta hatchback and the Trevi Volumex with a positive displacement supercharger.

The Rally's 1995 cc four cylinder engine, which also features a positive displacement blower, is mounted fore and aft behind the seats, with the five speed gear box overhanging the rear wheels. Output is 205 hp and the top speed is claimed to be 136 mph. It has a tubular steel frame, mainly plastic body panels, aircraft type fuel tanks and the purposeful looks of a military jet.

Only 200 of these cars will be made: 150 of them are to be sold from next month onwards to private buyers and competition teams at about £17,000 apiece.

The Delta turbo four wheel drive is rather like a scaled down Audi Quatro. Lancia's engineers developed it from the standard Delta in only 12 months and it incorporates very few special parts. With 130 hp from its 1600 cc engine the Delta 4x4 does arouod 115 mph but Laocia stressed its ease of driving and secure handling on slippery surfaces more than its speed. A number of prototypes have already been made but it will not go nn sale for the time being.

Other makers are rushing to fit turbochargers to boost performance. But Fiat, which owns Lancia, believes the supercharger drive directly from the engine—not hy its exhaost gases—is a better proposition. Turbochargers start to work only when an engine is turning over fairly quickly. The positive displacement supercharger's benefits are available at low engine revolutions, making a car much more responsive as well as more powerful. Other Fiat and Lancia models, both petrol and diesel engioed, will be appearing with superchargers, as distinct from turbochargers, in the fairly near future.

Rover's turbo diesel 2600 made its debut at Turin. This 102 mph five-seater with an urban fuel consumption of 30.2 mpg has an Italian VM 2.4 litre four-cylinder engine, turbocharged for 90 bhp and giving 0-60 mph acceleration in 14.9 secoods. There is nothing spartan about the interior: this is a senior manager's diesel, with electric windows, central locking, walnut door trim, velvet seats and the rest. About 3000 are expected to be sold this year, mainly in Italy and France. It costs under £8,000 in Italy and could do wooders fnr BL's share of the executive market, where diesels are carrying all before them. With gasoil in Italy half the price of petrol, it is easy to see why.

An Austin Metro S on the BL stand is most attractively got up with £400 of goodies including wheel arch extensions, rally type front seats and all-season Michelin tyres. It costs less than £4,500.

The Innocenti Mini with the elegant hatchback body styled by Bertone is nn show with a three-cylinder engine. De Tomaso who now owns Innocenti, thioks most cars of less than 1.5 litres capacity will eventually have three cylinders. Fiat disagrees. They say the cost of balancing a three-cylinder to make it run as smoothly as a four could be more than the amount saved by eliminating ooe cylinder.

The Fiat Panda has been seized upon by Italy's vehicle converters who have turned it into an attractive recreational vehicle with pick-up bodywork. Another fringe motor industry activity is making cars proof against theft or terrorist attack. One firm, which showed a bullet proof car based on a Fiat Campagnola, will also convert the boot on any saloon into a strongbox. Ideal for a jewellery salesman, providing he doesn't lose the key.

A limited edition of the Alfa Romeo Sprint Veloce called the Trophy, finished in metallic grey with a traditional wood-rimmed steering wheel, will be coming to Britain in a few weeks' time, priced only slightly above the standard model.

YET ANOTHER version of the Metro appeared this week — the Vanden Plas, luxuriously trimmed and at £4,995, cheaper by £155 than the Ford 1.3 Fiesta Ghia, which BL reckon is its nearest rival. Mechanically, it is the same as the Metro 1.3 S and HLS, with a 60 hp engine giving it a 97 mph maximum and lively acceleration, with the promise of 40 mpg economy and more.

The Metro Vanden Plas is aimed at older buyers. They want a very small car because it is easy to park and doesn't cost too much to run, but has the sort of interior they used to have in the company Rover or Jaguar they drove before they retired. The seats are of woven velvet, a material first seen the Rover Vanden Plas, the glass is bronze tinted and the doors are capped in walnut veneer.

One more Metro version is on its way — the warmed-up MG Metro. Its price will be announced early in May.

هكذا من الأصل

PROPERTY

Lord Astor at home

BY JUNE FIELD

BE IT A COTTAGE or castle, selling a home can be a traumatic experience. Lord and Lady Astor of Hever Castle in 3,145 Kent acres discovered this recently when the painstakingly prepared sale-plans of agents Savills went awry and were revealed before it was intended.

The operation in their London office, supposed to be top secret, had been code-named "Bullen" after the original family name of a former occupier, Sir Thomas Bullen — father of Anne Boleyn, ill-fated second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Queen Elizabeth I. The leaking of the news of the sale meant the family had to cope with various unannounced visitors making their way over the little wooden drawbridge across the moat.

Gavin, Second Baron Astor of Hever (nephew of Nancy Astor, first woman member of Parliament and instigator of the original Clivedon Set long before the vicissitudes of the early 1960s), has also had to take a fair amount of criticism over the desirability (and worth) of the castle's contents.

"Please don't say as one writer did, that some of them are from Harrods," begged Lord Astor, as with his dogs Rhoda and Bess we walked in the beautiful tranquil gardens of the moated castle. The place was bought in 1903 by his American grandfather William Waldorf Astor (1848-1919), who became a British citizen in 1899 and was created First Viscount Astor in 1917.

"I don't think we have ever bought anything there," says the 64-year-old Lord Astor, who very much wants to keep contents and castle together.

Even the contemporary Bonsack baths have come in for some verbal disparagement. But certainly to accompany Henry VIII's handsome bedroom, with a washbasin and wc in the adjoining tower, what could be a more fitting (and necessary), accoutrement than an impressive chair-backed bath with ornate old-plated fittings?

An what could be more evocative than the long oak table in the great hall, where in the late 16th century a round of beef and jugs of beer with bread and cheese would be left for smugglers coming up from the coast? Says Lord Astor: "No questions would be asked or payment required from the visitors who might leave a keg of brandy or a pound or two of tobacco in return for Hever's open doors." (For a short period after Henry VIII's fourth wife Anne of Cleves, died—she was granted the estate after her divorce—the place had become a house of call for dealers in contraband).

However eclectic the furnishings, and fabric of Hever, a fortified farmhouse first owned by Walter de Hevere, and castellated and generally added to over a span of some 35 owners, the same compact basic shape remains of a central keep pierced by a gateway and flanked by two square towers. The approach is over a wooden drawbridge, under two of the original three porticullis, the mechanism in the Armoury on the third floor. (Go on up narrow stairs to the roof, and there is a tiny secret room in the thickness of the walls).

The guidebook also reminds one that the archway entrance "provided facilities for the occupants to pour boiling oil and to hurl missiles at invaders." (To make sure that friends visiting never encroached on his privacy, W. W. Astor built Tudor-style guest cottages outside the castle walls, so that he could raise the drawbridge after they had retired for the night. Always security-conscious, his office on London's Victoria Embankment had doors with handles on one side only, which could be locked simultaneously by a central controlling mechanism).

Hever is now almost a self-contained world of its own, with its 9-bedroom castle, 114 let, service or vacant houses, cottages and apartments, farms, and small private stud specialising in Welsh ponies, shooting, fishing, and an "Olde Worlde" English "pub" plus various commercial leisure amenities that go with opening the house and grounds to the public—in all some £10.5m-worth, plus £3m for the contents according to the joint agents Savills and Sotheby Parke Bernet International Realty Corporation for the property, Sotheby's for the fine art collection.

You can go along and see for yourself, either with *hoi polloi* daily except Mondays and Thursdays (£2.50 each admission to the castle and grounds), or £220 for the day and an overnight stay, living like a lord in one of the elegant guest bedrooms, including wining and dining in the Tudor Suite, with perhaps a visit from the family if they are in residence in their private apartments off the passage. (Details Christopher Scott, agent and chief executive, Hever Castle, Edenbridge, Kent.)

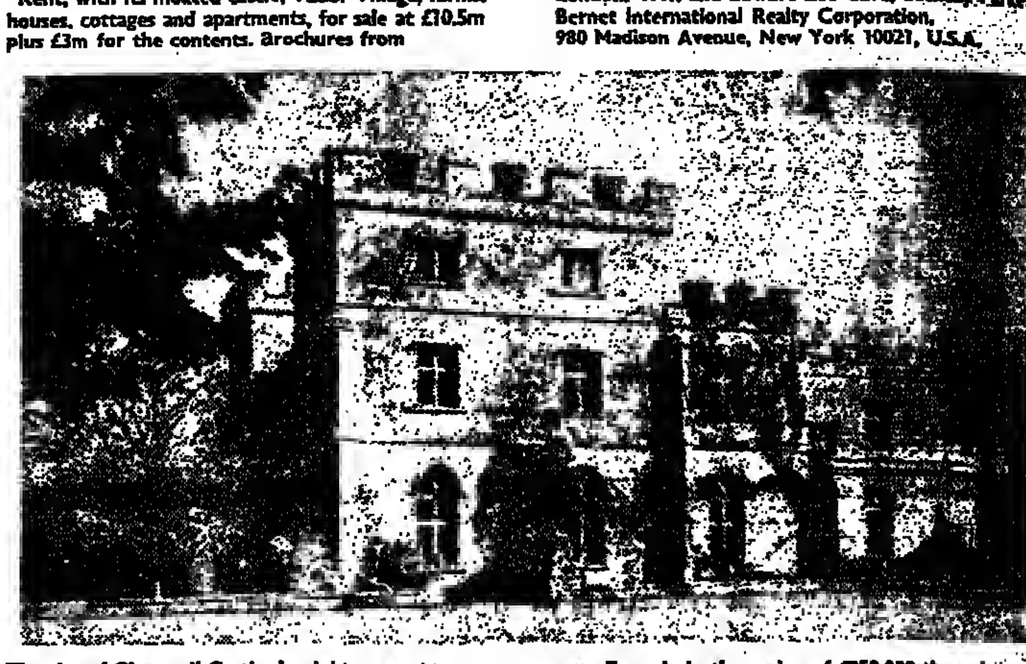
The Astors are going to live on their estate at Tillypronie, Tarland, Aberdeenshire. Scotland, of course, is a good hunting ground for castles. Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae, with views across the sea to Ailsa Craig, is for sale through Savills' Edinburgh office and Michael Barne and Partners, Ayr. This modernised baronial home has planning permission for conversion to nine luxury apartments. O'Neill of Edinburgh has Hawthornden Castle in 130 acres at Lasswade, overlooking the valley of the river Esk, Midlothian, on offers over £180,000 and Knight Frank and Rutley is marketing a 15-bedroom Georgian castle in 14 acres in the Tweed Valley, used as a health spa.

A delightful small castle in 20 acres by Hawick, Roxburghshire, designed by Robert Adam in 1792, recently restored but requiring further improvement, is for sale on offers near £75,000 through Bell-Ingram, Edinburgh, who also have an impressive 12th-century castle by Thornhill in 142 acres in Dumfriesshire, with fishing rights over about 3½ miles of the River Nith.

In Gloucestershire, Sir Walter Raleigh is believed to have courted Beth Throckmorton at the Elizabethan manor at Clearwell, Coleford, near the Forest of Dean, where an earlier house dated back to the early 1300s. Then in the early 1700s the Wyndham family built a new residence, Clearwell Castle, claimed to be one of the earliest examples of Neo-Gothic architecture in England, designed by Roger Morris (1695-1759), who also created a Gothic castle for the Duke of Argyle.

The castle prospered until the early part of the 20th century, under the ownership of Colonel Charles Vereker, Royal Artillery, retired. Mr Geoffrey Body writes in the current guide: "Gardeners tended the rolling lawns, the stable block bustled with the noise of horses and equipment, and in the big house itself the domestic staff busied themselves keeping the elegant establishment clean and well ordered." It continued to flourish even after a disastrous fire in 1929, but after the Colonel died in 1947 the place was left to moulder away, and by 1953 it was practically derelict; the roof leaked, the walls were pealing, and floors had caved in.

Hever Castle Estate, 3,145 acres outside Edenbridge in Kent, with its moated castle, Tudor Village, farms, houses, cottages and apartments, for sale at £10.5m plus £3m for the contents. Brochures from Geoffrey van Cutsem, Savills, 20 Grosvenor Hill, London, W.1, and Edward Lee Cave, Sotheby Parke Bernet International Realty Corporation, 980 Madison Avenue, New York 10021, U.S.A.



The site of Clearwell Castle, in eight acres at Coleford, near the Forest of Dean, dates back to Roman times; the present house c 1727, believed to be one of the earliest examples of neo-Gothic architecture in England, attracts 20,000 visitors a year. For sale in the region of £250,000 through Geffrey Getvoldsen, Bernard Thorpe and Partners, 1 Queen's Circus, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. (0242 39202).

Then Mr Frank Yeates, who had been born at Clearwell in 1913 (his father was a gardener on the estate) bought the place for £3,000, giving up his successful bakery business in Blackpool.

Restoring the house from an empty shell proved a long, hard and costly job. To raise funds, Frank Yeates went back to baking (in Bream), while still finding time to work on the building and gardens. His wife Alice searched out hesian and linen to use as a base for restoring the drawing room walls, damaged ceiling ornamentations were remoulded using gelatine and fibre glass in the living-rooms, including the 84 ft library, now the banquet hall; panelling in the dining-room came from the local vicarage, parquet flooring from an engineering firm, and carpeting from a Government surplus sale. There were problems when connecting up the Victorian boiler for central heating though—the weight of it buckled the floor!

Over the years the whole family worked on what was now their ancestral home, the castle and eight acre gardens were opened to the public.

Now with the death of Mr Yeates, the 11-bedroom, four bathroom, castle, two coachman's lodges, stables, garages, plus wine bar, tea-room business, pets' corner, bird garden and lake, is for sale in the region of £250,000 through Mr Jeffrey Getvoldsen, Bernard Thorpe and Partners, 1 Queen's Circus, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

LEISURE

Those dancing daffodils

GARDENING

ARTHUR HELLYER

DAFFODILS have not, on the whole, flowered as freely this spring as they did last year and no doubt many gardeners will be wondering what they ought to do about it. Part of the trouble can be due to overcrowding which results in the bulbs becoming starved and failing to attain sufficient size to produce flowers. When daffodils are grown in cultivated soil it is a fairly simple matter to lift them when all the leaves have died down, break up the bulb clusters and replant the best bulbs for flowering next year. Small bulbs can either be discarded or they can be replanted in a nursery bed in which they can grow to flowering size which may take two or three years. This remedy is nothing like so easy when daffodils are naturalised in grass and I try to avoid it as much as possible because of the labour involved and the damage done to the turf.

However, though overcrowding is undoubtedly one cause of poor flowering, it is by no means the only one. I have daffodils that have been growing in grass since the late 1930s without disturbance and yet they have never failed to make a display, though better some years than others. They were particulraly good last year and are below par this spring. Quite likely they will be back to normal again next year and though this may simply indicate that, in an off year, bulbs have e better chance to regain lost size, there are clearly other factors et work.

One common cause of poor flowering is cutting off the daffodil leaves before they have died down. Until this happens the leaves are still feeding the bolbs and so helping them to gain sufficient size to flower again the following year. Another cause of failure is leck of feeding and this is much more likely to occur when bulbs are naturalised because there is a tendency to think of them as growing wild and therefore not requiring such attention. In fact this is a *complete misreading* of the true situation for naturalised bulbs are competing for nourishment with turf and require more, not less feeding than bulbs *growing* in cultivated soil.

Experiments in the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley have shown that, though some varieties suffer more than others from premature defoliation, none likes to have *its foliage* cut off earlier than six weeks after the date when the last flowers fade. Gladiolus growers also agree that six weeks after flowering is about the right time to remove gladiolus leeves and these two fects might suggest that six *weeks of continued growth* is a good period to allow for all spring and summer flowering bulbs. It cannot be applied to entumn flowering bulbs such as emaryliis end nerine which make their growth in different waya and at different times and should be allowed to mature their leaves completely.

Feeding of daffodils, whether in grass or cultivated beds, can be done with an ordinary compound garden fertiliser of the National Growmore type giving about equal parts of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash though for naturalised bulbs a high nitrogen fertiliser might be even better because of the demand on nitrogen made by grass. This is best applied in February before flower buds appear but it would be better to use it now than not at all.

However, elthough all these things have a bearing on flower production they are not the only causes of irregular flowering. Flower buds are produced inside most apring flowering bulbs before they start to grow again in late summer or autumn. The bulbs must be sufficiently sturdy to enable this to happen and, with tulips, the critical size is said to be between 6 and 9 cms circumference. But temperature can also be just as important in determining whether or not flower buds are *formed*. *For daffodils* it is the temperature between April and June that matters since it is then that next year's flower buds commence to form within the bulbs. The optimum temperature range is 17 to 20 degs. C and looking back at the spring of 1981 it seems clear thet in many places such temperatures were not well maintained. In late spring it was distinctly chilly.

There is very little that one can do about this outdoors but hyacinths and tulips are much *more amenable to artificial* heat treatment since they initiate their flower buds during the summer after their leaves bave died down. They can then be lifted and stored quite conveniently and economically in a controlled temperature for a few weeks which is all that is necessary. For hyacinths the best temperature is placed very positively at 25.5 degs. C. For tulips it is said to be in the range *17 to 20 degs. C*, the same as for daffodils but several weeks later when temperatures can be expected to be higher.

The May-June flowering bulbous irises have a totally different time table for flower bud *initiation. They do not start* this until the winter or early spring, roughly from January until March and this is true whether they have been lifted and stored for a while after flowering or have been allowed to remain undisturbed in the ground. Since the best temperature for the formation of flower buds is said to be 13 degs. C and the acceptable range is from 5 to 20 degs. C there should be no difficulty with these irises out of doors in most parts of the British Isles.

Exception must be made for *Iris reticulata* the delightful little violet scented iris which flowers in February and March and also, I suspect, for other very early flowering irises such as *I. histrioides* and *I. danfordiae* but no scientific work appears to have been done on these presumably because they are not as commercially important as cut flowers. What is certain is that *I. reticulata* behaves like tulips and hyacinths in making its flower buds within the little bulbs during the summer. They should already be there by the *time the bulbs are planted in* September and if they are not it is too late to do anything about it.

Crocuses grow from corms which do not form flower buds within themselvea in the manner of bulbs. They never seem *to fail, maybe because of this*, and were as heart warming as ever this year in the London parks, in many town displays and in private gardens. A north country reader writes to tell me how splendid the crocus display was on the verges beside the A646 *leading* into Hebden Bridge and again on the A6033 southward out of Todmorden and I know that the same story could be repeated for many another roadside. It is enough to bring all traffic to a standstill.

VIDEO REVIEW

Nigel Andrew's video review will appear next Saturday.

RACING

DOMINIC WIGAN

JUMPING and flat racing enthusiasts alike will be descending on Sandown today for an outstanding programme which boasts the £30,000 added Whitbread and the only marginally less valuable Guardian Classic Trial, won a year ago by Shergar. In addition to those races, the card features the Group 3 Westbury and the Sandown Park 2-year-old maiden, which 12 months ago went to Wind and Wuthering.

Diamond Edge came good, as Fulke Walwyn always anticipated he would, in last year's Whitbread, and the 11-year-old is sure to jump a warm favourite to again win National Hunt racing's oldest sponsored prize. With the fast underfoot conditions he favours, the *course specialist*, who *won in* 1979, must have bright prospects of surpassing the Whitbread achievements of Larbawn, who landed this race in 1968 and 1969.

However, he has no easy task with 9 lbs more in the saddle than in 1981, and, as a further cautionary note, it is worth mentioning that only one chaser as old as Diamond Edge, the Dikler, has landed a Whitbread in the race's 24-years' history. In what should prove to be another absorbing race for the brewery prize—despite a disappointing turnout of only nine runners—Diamond Edge's class should carry him to victory ahead of Ireland's King Spruce.

Now that Electric bas been pulled out of the Guardian Classic Trial to wait for Ascot's White Rose Stakes, the Guardian newspaper'a prize is probably best left to Peacetime. This beautifully bred colt by Nijinsky, out of Quiet Fling's dam, Peace, ran an encouraging race *on his only 2-year-old* appearance to finish a 2½ lengths third behind Ivano in Newmarket's Houghton Stakes. Now well forward and thought ready to do himself full justice, Peacetime, who did a highly impressive piece of work in preparation for today's race, can further his claims to Derby consideration by out-classing Lyphmas.

Turning to Leicester, where racing is due to get under way at 1.30 pm, by far the most interesting event of the afternoon is the Philip Cornes Trophy.

SANDOWN
1.45—Super River
2.15—Peacetime***
2.55—Diamond Edge
3.35—Ring the Bell
4.10—Cordite Spear
4.40—Zaynala

LEICESTER
1.30—Ridge Heights
2.00—Jazz Band**
2.30—Noalto*

BEVERLEY
2.00—Jorge Miguel

CHESS

LEONARD BARDEN

THE OPENING rounds of the Phillips and Drew Kings, Britain's strongest ever tournament, were distinguished by high-class chess, capacity audiences at County Hall, and a promising start by the young English players. Their results *will* please *almost everyone*, though I am not so sure about one venerable chess commentator. His article, published a few days after England's fine fight against the USSR in the World Cup, two days after Nigel Short's draw with Karpov, and the same day thet Miles beat Geller while Speelman bad Karpov on the ropes, "proved" that Britain could not possibly catch the Russians until at least the 21st century.

The fact is that the splendid English performance in the first three rounds could have been better still. Part of the Karpov mystique is the world champion's near-invincibility with the white pieces, yet in this game the Soviet king is buffeted eround the board until Black, at the critical moment, unaccountably misses a *simple win*.

WHITE: A. Karpov (USSR)
BLACK: J. S. Speelman (England)
Queen's Indian Defence
(Phillips and Drew 1982)

1 P-Q4, N-KB3; 2 P-QB4, P-K3; 3 N-KB3, P-QN3; 4 N-B3, B-N5; 5 B-N5, P-KR3; 6 B-R4, B-N2; 7 P-K3, P-KN4; 8 B-N3, N-K5; 9 Q-B2, BxN ch; 10 PxB, NxB; 11 RPxN, Q-K2. Black's formation is an English speciality, edopted by both Miles and Speelman in the 1980 Phillips and Drew as well as in other events. The queen move is more flexibla than N-B3 or P-Q3.

12 B-Q3, N-B3; 13 R-QN1.

The alternative and perhaps better plan is N-Q2-N3 with P-QR4-5.

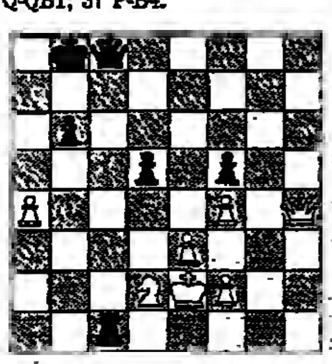
13...0-0-0; 14 P-B5, P-Q3; 15 PxNP, BPxP; 16 P-B4, K-N1; 17 N-Q2, P-KR4; 18 Q-R4, P-R5; 19 PxP, PxP; 20 R-N5, P-B4.

Karpov's calm style is occasionally unsettled by aharp attacks, and this is a good example. White's queen's side offensive develops too slowly, so Black counters vigorously in the centre.

21 B-K2, Q-N2; 22 B-B3, P-K4; 23 P-Q5, P-K5! 24 PxN, PxB; 25 PxP (conceding material, bnt if 25 PxB, PxP the united pawns win for Black), BxP; 26 RxP ch, PxR; 27 QxB, Q-QB2; 28 Q-R4, P-Q4; 29 P-B5, QxP; 30 RxP, RxR; 31 QxR, R-N1; 32 P-R4, Q-R4; 33 K-Q1.

Karpov's king has to run for life. The threat was R-N8 ch followed by Q-R3 ch, winning.

33...R-N8 ch; 34 K-B2, Q-B4 ch; 35 K-Q3, R-QB8; 36 K-K2, Q-QB1; 37 P-B4.



37...Q-R3 ch ?

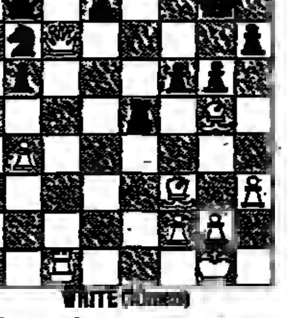
Missing his great chance. 37...R-B7! threaten Q-B5 or Q-R3 ch and leaves White no reasonable defence. From here on the world champion defends resourcefully to reach a draw.

38 K-B3, QxP; 39 Q-Q8 ch, K-R2; 40 K-N2, Q-B3; 41 N-B3, K-R3; 42 Q-KB8, P-Q5; 43 QxP, PxP; 44 PxP, Q-B7 ch; 45 QxQ, RxQ ch; 46 K-N3, R-K7; 47 P-B5, RxP; 48 K-B4, R-K1; 49 P-B6, K-N4; 50 P-B7, R-KB1; 51 N-K5, K-N5; 52 K-B5, P-N4; 53 K-K6, K-B6; 54 N-B6. Drawn.

There is still time to visit this historic tournament before it ends on April 30. Today is a rest day, but tomorrow and on Monday Karpov meets Britain's two top grandmasters Miles and Nunn. Hours of play are 1.15 to 6.15 at County Hall, London, and ticket prices are £3 (£1.50 after 4 pm). Bill Hartston of BBC 2's Master Game gives daily commentaries and leads *audience discussion* throughout the session.

POSITION No. 420

BLACK (10 men)



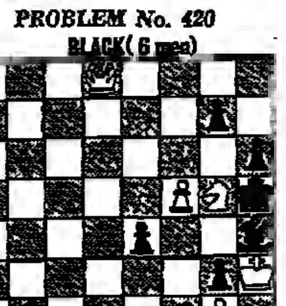
WHITE

Polugeevsky v. Bilek, Busum 1969. White (to move) sacrificed rook for minor piece to reach this diagram where he reckoned that 1 BxP would regain his material with interest. Black had also aimed for this diagram and believed that 1 BxP would be a blunder.

Who was right? This is quite a hard test of your skill in tactical vision.

PROBLEM No. 420

BLACK (6 men)



WHITE (5 men)

White mates in three moves at latest, against any defence (by A. Nagler).

Solutions, Page 14

Checking up on Californias

WINE

EDMUND PENNING-ROWSELL

THE most publicised "new" wines to arrive on our scene in recent years bave undoubtedly ben the Californias; and all esseotially without the paid *promotion and publicity* that normally accompanies the "launch" of even a single new branded wine. The reason for the widespread interest in them is that they have provided something fresh for journalists to write about and merchants *to sell. Though for the most* part produced from European grape varieties, mostly French and German, they are different and in general excellent.

As a result, it is difficult nowadays to attend "a wine occasion," given by the younger generation of wine merchants and amateurs, without being given a California wine — as likely as not "blind." This is all part of the game, to which there are no objections on my part. This usually provides yet another opportunity to shatter the common delusion that "experts" can invariably identify not only the wine, the vintage and the proportion of each grape variety in the blend, but have a good shot at the name of the *maître de chai's* younger daughter.

Recently I bave attended four tastings or lunches devoted to California wines. The first was of Clos du Val, a well-known Napa Valley estate, run by the son of the late *régisseur* of Ch Lafite, and sold in this country by Averys of Bristol and Caxton Wines, 2a, Duke Street, W1. They were a Merlot '78, Cabernet-Sauvignons '78 and '77, and an example of the nearest thing to a native California grape, a Zinfandel '78. This last was a very big wine, whose "porty" taste was explained by its 15-degree alcoholic strength. Of the others I preferred the fruity, soft and aromatic Merlot which, nevertheless, was 13.4 degrees, compared with an average 12 degrees for a claret. The Cabernets, firmer end more backward, were uoder 13 degrees, with the '77 the more developed. The retail price of these wines is between £6 and £7 a bottle.

Next came a lunch at Findlaters of Wigmore Street, W1, at which were produced four wines from one of the newest California estates, Jordan. This is owned by a mining engineer of that name, who struck oil in the Far East and translated some of the proceeds into wine. The vineyard was only planted with Cabernet-Sauvignon in 1974, and the first wine shown, 1976, had largely been made from grapes bought-in from neighbours in the Alexander Valley, near Sonoma. Then came the 1977 and 1978, by which vintage the *wine had come entirely* from the estate itself. All were deep-coloured, rich, fruity, almost voluptuous wines as many of these California Cabernets are. (The two younger vintages also contained, quite legally, a proportion of Merlot.) Jordan is now also making a Chardonnay and the 1979 was opened: a fine wine with a powerful bouquet and full, rather strong flavour, so typical of Californie white wines. These are all expensive wines, and the 1977, already available bere, is £12.50 bnt certainly worth trying.

Then I attended the remarkable mass tasting of California wines that Geoffrey Roberts of 8, Dilke Street, SW3 organises each year. There were 87 this time! I, concentrating on certain grape varieties, tasted about 30; quite enough for these generally very powerful wines, even if expectorated. Of the Cabernet-Sauvignons I particularly liked the 1978s of Trefethen, Mondevi and Joseph *Phelps; of the Merlots* only the Firestone, as others were acid or just dull. Of the 1977 Cabernets, the relatively light Mondavi and the big-bodied Ridge York Creek showed very well. Going on to the 1976 Cabernets. Mayacamas was tannic and should keep, but, of course, two of the three Jo Heitz wines seared heavily: the celebrated Marthe's Vineyard and the more recently planted Bella Oaks. The first had a lovely aroma, though I did not detect the mint or eucalyptus that makes it such a favourite in *California* blind *tastings*. Annther big-bodied wine was the Mondavi 1975 Reserve.

Roberts, with only a wholesale licence, can ooly sell in dozen case lots. The average price of his wines is between £60 and £70 a case, plus VAT, but the Heitz and last Mondavi wine mentioned above were priced at £225 and £195 a case respectively, plus VAT. Comparable first-growth clarets might be cheaper — but different.

I also sampled some delicious dessert wines, particularly Pbelps' Johannisberger Riesling Late Harvest 1980 (£72.50), es rich and luscious as a great German wine, and e Mondavi Moscato d'Oro 1980 (£59.50), as seductive and grapey a wine as one could wish for.

The last California wine tasting that I have taken part in was a small one from the Monterey vineyard of Jekel. It included all the nsual California range: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Blanc, Cabernet-Sauvignon and Riesling. All good, well-made, "bonourable" wines, as the French would say, and costing from Caxton Wines under £5 a bottle. But the outstanding wine was a special reserve Cabernet-Sauvignon 1978 It was tasted blind against six other wines, whicb later transpired to be first growth clarets of the same year, plus Léoville-Las-Cases. Not realising this, I bad taken them for other Californias, and almost withont exception they were beaten hollow by this deep-coloured, very rich wine, with a splendidly concentrated bouquet and flavour. It was like tasting a big Richebourg before claret, and only the Latour made much beadway against it, and not mucb for me. The retail price *is around £10*.

Last year in California I participated in several very interesting, enjoyable blind tastings in which a leading claret was the joker in the pack. It seldom sbowed well. The same applies to California Chardonnays compared with fine white burgundies. In the somewhat over-publicised blind "competitions" between French end California wines made from the same grapes, the latter have invariably come out easily first. But as testa of comparative quality they are irrelevant. First, the California wines are nearly always stronger in alcohol, and secondly they develop faster—and, with the red wines, much faster.

The aeductive, rich, round flavour of the Cabernets, and the atrong, fruity and often oaky nose and full, sometimes aggressive taste of the Chardonnays are more immediately attractive. The clarets are more elegant, reticent and closed-up; the white burgundies have yet to show their finesse.

Last autumn, Frank Prial, the distinguished former "New York Times" wine editor, posted to Paris two years previously, expressed in an article a certain disillusion with California wines, of which he had previously been a fervent proponent.

Understandably, the French, somewhat dismayed by their well-advertised contest losses, were delighted. For Prial now found some of the Chardonnays "too aggressive, too alcoholic," and that the California winemakers and their customers were too tasting-conscious. Some wines, be suggested, should be labelled: "This wine was designed for competition and is not to be used for family dining." An exaggeration, of course, but no one who bas been to California can have missed the spirit of emulation among the growers, nor fail to be captivated by their enthusiasm, willingness to experiment and readiness to accept criticism. Yet it is another matter to proclaim California wines superior to the finer French. They are good and their producers can often teach something to the French from whom they have themselves learnt so much. But they are different—and not always less expensive.

BRIDGE

E. P. C. COTTER

KIT WOOLSEY of the U.S. bas produced a most interesting *book called Partnership Defence in Bridge*, published originally by the Devyn Press of Kentucky, but obtainable now from Bibliagora, P.O. Box 7, Hounslow, Middlesex.

Defence is by common consent the most difficult department of the game, and every player will benefit by studying this book. Let us start with this band dealt by West at a love score:

N.
♠ A 7
♡ Q 10 7 3
◇ A 8 6 5
♣ K 4 3

W.
♠ 8 4
♡ 8 6
◇ K 9 7 4
♣ Q 10 9 5 2

E.
♠ 6 3 2
♡ A K J 4
◇ Q 10 3 2
♣ 8 7

S.
♠ K Q J 10 9 5
♡ 9 5 2
◇ J
♣ A J 6

You are sitting East, and, after a pass from your partner, North opens the bidding with one diamond, you overcall with *one heart, and South says* one spade. The opener rebids one no trump, South jumps to four spades, and that concludes the auction.

West leads the eight of hearts, and your overcall on a four-card suit, which is generally not to be recommended, seems to have borne fruit. You make Knave, Ace, and King, your partner throwing the club two on the third round. You play your last heart, the declarer ruffs high, and continues with his remaining five trumps. How do you aee the situation?

Declarer must have the club Ace, so be has nine tricks. You must place your partner with the diamond King and the club Queen — otherwise there is no way of *breaking the contract*. It aeems a simple defence—you guard diamonds, while partner looks after clubs. But spare a thought for that partner of yours — the position may not be clear to him. He might place declarer with Queen and another diamond, and you witb Knave and two clubs. Set his mind at rest by signalling with the ten of diamonds, and West will know that he can afford to bare his diamond King. That is true partnership co-operation.

It is, of course, *imperative* to tell your partner the truth by your signals. For all that, there are times when you must deceive him for the good of the side. Here is a case in point:

N.
♠ J 10 8
♡ Q 10
◇ A Q
♣ K Q 10 7 5 4

W.
♠ 9 5
♡ 8 5 3 2
◇ 7 4 2
♣ A J 9 8

E.
♠ A K Q 7 6 3
♡ J 4
◇ 9 6 3
♣ 3 2

S.
♠ 4 2
♡ A K 9 7 6
◇ K J 10 8 5
♣ 6

With East-West vulnerable, South deals and bids one heart, North says two clubs, and South rebids two diamonds. North now says two spades, a waiting bid, you double to let your partner know what you would like him to lead, South says three diamonds, North bids three hearts, and South goes to four hearts.

When West leads the nine of spades, the situation is not too healthy. Declarer is marked with ten red cards, and unless he has two spades and one club, you can pack up and go home. If your partner holds the club Ace, you can cash three black winners and lead a third apade for a possible trump promotion. But you must let West make his club Ace before you lead a third round of spades. If you don't, declarer will simply throw away his club on the third apade. There is another snag — if you return your three of clubs, partner will assume that it is a singleton. How can you stop this happening? Just deceive your partner by winning the first trick with the King of spades, then you return the club three. West takes his Ace, and returns e spade, because he "knows" that declarer still has the spade Queen. You win, and now a third spade ensures a trump trick for the defence.

BOOKS

Taking command

BY NIGEL NICOLSON

Alanbrooke
by David Fraser. Collins. £12.95, 304 pages

Arthur Bryant's prologue to this book largely repeats what he wrote in his own two volumes, and what General Sir David Fraser says eloquently in his, that Alan Brooke only *seemed* disagreeable because he was a man of iron and wrote his diary late at night when he was feeling crossest, and that he and Churchill jointly won the war.

The two authors make these points insistently, but with a difference. Bryant is reverential, Fraser critically appreciative. Bryant could not have written: "he was admired, feared and liked, perhaps in that order," as Fraser described him in the *Dictionary of National Biography*; and Fraser would be unlikely to call the Churchill-Brooke alliance "A partnership in Genius," the title of the first chapter in Bryant's *The Turn of the Tide*.

There was only one genius in the partnership: Churchill. It would not have worked so well had there been two. General Fraser puts it thus:

"It was a stormy relationship. Alanbrooke profoundly admired Churchill, yet found his ideas often unrealistic, his habits of mind irrational and infuriating, his method of work frustrating and exhausting, and his temper sometimes vile. . . . Yet he loved his courage, his humour, his readiness to bear huge burdens. For his part, Churchill probably found Alanbrooke a trying subordinate. The latter's uncompromising negatives, his bleak resistance to cajolery, his practical approach, his reliance on facts alone, were often tedious to Churchill. . . . Alanbrooke's was a dissective, Churchill's a romantic mind."

This gives the tone of the book, and its central theme, for although it is a full biography, the first 200 pages and Brooke's first 58 years form but a launch-pad for the five years, from Pearl Harbour onwards, when Brooke was CIGS and saw Churchill every day. It is a careful, truthful and fascinating portrait. The only sloppy part of the book is its index.

For all the assurances of these two men that when you got to know Alan Brooke, which few did, he was "warm, amusing and affectionate" (Bryant) and "the most charming of companions" (Fraser), he was a forbidding man; as commander, colleague and ally. (He had the habit of beginning a reply, "I flatly disagree.") The reaction "awe" appears early in the book, and in his career. He could be reserved, but to say, with Bryant, that "he was almost totally without personal ambition" is going a bit far; and, if true, would have been actually alarming in the senior British soldier of the Second War.

In his most private relationships he was loving to the point of religious veneration; first of his mother, then of his second wife, writing to the latter, "It is impossible to live with you without seeing God's divine beauty radiating from you at all times." This is more embarrassing than impressive. Again, his passion for ornithology, which in another Field Marshal might be endearing, sets Alanbrooke even further apart. His gentleness and firmness, instead of being complementary, appear inconsistent. He seems two halves of a man instead of one whole.

But what does this matter when he was strong and brave; so great a patriot, so fine a professional? It is right that his contribution to victory should be honoured in this way, when Churchill, in his Memoirs, minimised it; and was not too pleased when Bryant's rendering of the Brooke diaries was published. Now General Fraser has got the balance right.

Brooke was not an imaginative man. He was an executor, not an originator. He would never have ordered the church-bells to be rung after Alamein. (Churchill did.) Nor was he particularly fruitful in strategic ideas. The central British strategy, to delay invasion of France until we could be sure of success, meanwhile gaining control of the Mediterranean, was Churchill's concept before it became Brooke's.

Their joint determination and eloquence sustained it against American doubts: Churchill in his private, cosier talks with Roosevelt; Brooke in sharp debate with Marshall. On Pacific strategy, Fraser writes: "Churchill's instincts were probably sounder than Alanbrooke's," as they were on the significance of the atom bomb. It is often said that Brooke kept Churchill on the rails, restraining him from wild sorties like that on Northern Norway or Portugal, but in fact there were few such incidents, and Brooke did not always disapprove of them; Dieppe, for instance.

It would be wrong to think of their relationship as a running battle. Each in his own way "loved" the other, and if, in moments of irritation, Brooke could write that Churchill was impossible and had little strategic insight, on the whole he accepted Churchill's dominance. He was like a stake supporting a vigorous plant which would have been in danger of flopping without it. "The most difficult and in a way unsympathetic CIGS I had ever had to deal with," wrote Ismay. "But the best."

More surprising in a man who won unquestioned respect and authority, and who was accustomed to get his way, is that Brooke never interfered with his Commanders-in-Chief, regarding it as his main task to defend them against Churchill's impatience even when he thought them wrong; for instance, Alexander, for whom Brooke had great liking but little admiration. Errors in the planning of Tunis, Sicily, Salerno, Cassino and Anzio might have been averted by the Chief's timely advice; and it would not have been resented. Even Montgomery would accept a reprimand from him.

But Brooke was a conventional soldier ("conservative," General Fraser calls him more than once). He controlled more than he led. It is for this reason that his biographer stops short of claiming for him an immortal position, like that of Marlborough and Wellington, in the history of British arms.

Alanbrooke: a full biography of the world war two soldier is reviewed today

Rab at random

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

The Art of Memory: Friends in Perspective
by Lord Butler. Hodder & Stoughton £7.95, 175 pages

The late Lord Butler wrote his main book about politics—*The Art of the Possible*—a good ten years ago. What struck the reader was the glittering career he had always expected, and the fact that his principal achievements—the India Act of 1935 and the Education Act of 1944—were behind him by the end of the second world war. Yet he continued to be regarded as a likely, even probable future Prime Minister throughout the next 20 years.

The Art of Memory is a kind of postcript, a series of character sketches designed to demonstrate certain points. He wisely refrained from calling them essays, for whatever talents Lord Butler may have had, writing was not among them. Indeed, if this book were the only evidence, it would be difficult to attribute to him any of the intellectual calibre, charm and wit that we know he possessed.

One of the reasons he is remembered affectionately was his habit of making simple statements with a slightly cryptic meaning: for instance, Harold Macmillan is "the best Prime Minister we have." It may have worked in conversation, but not in print. Lord Butler emerges here simply as the master of banality:

"I will conclude [he wrote in his sketch of Chips Channon who was once his PPS at the Foreign office] "with my own view of him. He was far more capable than he was given credit for; he had enormous talent. A social catalyst, he recorded his perceptions with originality and wit."

Perhaps that is the joke: Channon was worth no more than a 30 word summing up. But it is more like a Headmaster's report than a character sketch.

Here he is again in what was presumably intended as a rather feline sketch of Walter Monckton: "his strength lay in human relationships not in intellect." The next sentence reads: "He was later to become Visitor of Balliol." Now, with the famous Macmillan pause in between, that would have been quite funny. Butler destroyed it all by going on:

"But I am informed that this was not foreseen when he was a young man, because he did not stand out particularly among the scintillating collection of undergraduates who were his friends."

He is neither witty nor revealing.

His views on policy, as given here, are uninspiring to the point of being breathtaking. Here he is on the first British approach to the European Community: "I was at first against tha entry owing to the effects that that would have on the agricultural Annual Price Review." That from a man who had already served at the Foreign Office and who was supposed to know the world.

Sometimes his ambiguity (deliberate or accidental?) is simply meaningless. For example, on Iain Macleod: "He was not exactly a devout Christian nor could he be described as a humanist or an agnostic." What was he? Lord Butler offers very little in the way of enlightenment.

One could go on, but it would be unkind. I suspect that the common thread in the sketches is a certain delight in having known so many people across the political spectrum. He admits to a mutual affinity with Bevin and records with relish that Bevan regarded him "with more apprehension than any of the other Conservative leaders with whom he had to deal." Yet there is also a touch of vanity about it which is not wholly attractive.

In the end, Lord Butler reminds you of the Cheshire Cat: the enigmatic smile remains, but it is very unclear what, if anything, was behind it. He kept his secrets well.

Forsyth file

BY GAY FIRTH

No Comebacks: Collected Short Stories
by Frederick Forsyth. Hutchinson. £6.95, 255 pages

Formerly a foreign correspondent, Mr Forsyth writes fiction, not fact, these days; but he remains more reporter than novelist. His prose style is crisp and even, but not deep; literate rather than literary; singularly detached. Now there is nothing wrong with that—except that characterisation takes a back seat. Such non-violent, non-mercenary, emotional relationships as are permitted to sprout do not develop beyond the seedling stage.

Forsyth folk seem to adopt masks, as if fearful that we might spot—behind the stereotypes—the liveliness of professionally human men and women.

But his strength, and his fans' satisfaction, is in situation. In the jargon of the pulps, his situations make superbly "sexy" stories. Here are ten: three previously published, seven new ones; cool, carefully crafted capsules of murder, deception, greed, and revenge, in settings ranging from Mauritius to Northern Ireland, London to Dublin, and the Dordogne.

"No Comebacks," title story and lynch pin of the collection, reads like a transistorised *Jackal*. It is no less compulsive reading for that. "There are no *Snakes in Ireland*" is a virtuoso piece of cold-blooded brilliance; enough to make the least squeamish of us physically wince. (Heaven help the squeamish—and the Irish.) For my money, "Money with Menaces" comes best out of an enviably expert bunch. Its irony is gentler, the twist in its tail more wryly human than we have come to expect of a writer not known for giving much of himself—much less his heart—away.

'Picture Post' editor speaks

BY GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON

Of This Our Time: A Journalist's Story 1905-1950
by Tom Hopkinson. Hutchinson £8.95, 317 pages

Journalism is a trade, like any other, but more interesting than most. The man who succumbs to the fascination of the "old black art" is never quite the same again.

So when an outstanding creative journalist, like Tom Hopkinson, a man of the same calibre as Christiansen or Cudlipp, tells the story of his life, it is likely that it will show more of the career and less of the person.

In fairness, then, it must be said that Hopkinson does not neglect family, children, school, or emotional life. After all, he has had three marriages, none of them uneventful. The first was to Antonia White, author of *Frost in May*.

But journalism, magazines, above all *Picture Post*, the weekly which he edited, and for some years made into a British institution, that is the centre-piece of the book.

Naturally, being the expert journalist that he is, he can tell the story and paint the characters he met during his voyage through the upper reaches of his profession.

During the war, Hopkinson, dissatisfied with the training of the Home Guard, set up a training centre of his own, manned by veterans of the International Brigade. When the War Office heard of this school, Hopkinson was told to close it down forthwith. Apparently he ignored the veto, but within two months the army set up training centres of its own.

Dismayed by the inferior weaponry of the Home Guard, he and his accomplice Tom Wintringham appealed to sympathisers in the U.S. The bag was varied: Teddy Roosevelt's favourite hunting rifle, guns used in the Louisiana Civil War of 1873 and, of course, any number of gangsters' Tommy guns. *Picture Post* designed its own mortars, to be made in any garage for £1 18s 6d: "Powder taken from fireworks is not reliable," its readers were warned.

When Lord Reith was sacked by Churchill in 1942, Hopkinson tried to persuade him to fight back. In vain. A few days later Reith, known as "Wuthering Heights" in the Churchill camp, confided to his diary, I wasn't feeling at all happy, I have made such a mess of everything."

The latter part of the narrative is dominated by the widening gulf between Hopkinson and the proprietor of *Picture Post*, Mr (later Sir Edward) Hulton, who thought his editor was taking too radical and altogether too independent a line.

One of the lesser problems was that Hulton expected Hopkinson to share his intense social life—or find substitutes. One of the latter, David Mitchell, distinguished himself by contradicting Anthony Eden after dinner. For this solecism he was rebuked by Hulton's wife, Nika, a Russian princess, who ordered him to ring for champagne. She added, "But you won't know how to open it. I can see you're not used to champagne."

"I am quite used to drinking champagne," replied Mitchell, "But I usually have it opened for me."

For this retort Hopkinson congratulated him, but suggested he should find a more suitable career than journalism. He did.

Eventually Hopkinson and Hulton parted following a dispute about the handling of material relating to the Korean War (remember?).

Picture Post died and Hopkinson found new fields of labour. Hopkinson believes the magazine folded because it had lost its character. Another explanation is possible: its time was up.

His autobiography takes the story to the age of 45. It is a lively account of a vigorous, honest and valuable life. As Hopkinson is now 76, there is plenty of material for a sequel.

Fathoming Sir James

BY BARRY RILEY

Sir James Goldsmith, The Man and The Myth
by Geoffrey Wansell. Fontana (paperback) £1.95, 222 pages

In the early part of 1973 Jimmy Goldsmith was hatching his most grandiose takeover plan—Project Grand Slam. This was nothing less than a bid for British-American Tobacco. According to Geoffrey Wansell's new biography, this was to be based on a secret agreement to purchase the 28 per cent stake in BAT owned by Imperial Tobacco. It was to be modelled on the successful scheme a year earlier through which the Goldsmith company Cavenham bought control of Allied Suppliers after the earlier purchase of a 12 per cent equity stake (carrying a third of the voting rights) from Unilever.

But the BAT takeover foundered when the Conservative Government refused to allow a contested battle to take place. The setback typified the pattern of Sir James Goldsmith's career. In his business dealings he was often brilliantly successful, at least after he had learnt a few painful lessons in his twenties. But in his relations with politicians and the Press he encountered obstruction and later hostility, to the extent that he has now largely dismantled his business empires in the UK and France and is concentrating upon the supposedly greener pastures of the United States.

Geoffrey Wansell's stint on the ill-fated *Now!* magazine aroused his curiosity about his colourful proprietor. Certainly there is an extravagant amount of material available to the biographer: Goldsmith grew up amidst wealthy international society as a cousin of the Rothschilds, became a gossip column sensation in 1953 on his elopement with Isabel Patino (who tragically died the next year) and later embarked on a dazzling business career.

But what makes him tick? Wansell is perhaps too impressed by his subject's emphasis on contradictions. "I am both French and English, both a Jew and a Catholic," Goldsmith tells him, adding ludicrously, "both a peasant and an aristocrat." He is, supposedly, a man who loves his children—but who may not see them for weeks at a time.

More than anything else, however, Goldsmith emerges as a brilliant gambler who plays to win. Even as a small boy he devoted much of his time to games of chance like craps; his betting feats in his short career at Eton became famous, culminating in his £8,000 win on a three-horse accumulator at Lewes races.

But Goldsmith was not just another spoilt rich boy, falling back on his inherited fortune and family connections, important though those were. He worked hard to pick up his craft as a businessman, and he learnt to hedge his bets after early setbacks—he did not have enough money, for instance, to maintain his half-share with Selim Zilkha in the embryo Mothercare business.

Though most of Sir James' early business experience was in France, it was the UK stock market in the freak conditions of the early 1970s which provided him with his greatest opportunities.

Mr Wansell makes a decent attempt to pull together Sir James' business activities and his bizarre private life involving separate families in both London and Paris. Too often, however, he merely skates over the surface. The reader is given little impression, for instance, of Goldsmith's immense capacity for detail, and his use of complexity as a financial weapon.

Important mysteries remain unexplained: the reason for his Wilson knighthood, for instance, or the identities of the other shareholders in his shadowy Panamanian master company, Lido SA. As for his personal life, his attitudes to religion and culture are left unexplored; although related to the Rothschilds, he is pictured in a cultural vacuum, flitting between places like Acapulco and Gstaad. Now he has abandoned Europe, and all that is left for Sir James Goldsmith at 49, suggests Geoffrey Wansell, is to become one of the world's richest men. Poor chap.

Young Mann

BY JOE ROGALY

Thomas Mann: the making of an artist 1875-1911
by Richard Winston. Constable. £12.50, 325 pages

Scholars will value this volume, and passionate devotees of everything Mannian may be glad to have it; for others it sadly fails as a result of its principal limitation, which is that the author died before he was half-way through. In 1911 Thomas Mann was only 36; he was to live until he was 80. True, he had written and published his first—and most-loved—novel, *Buddenbrooks*, in 1901, and Richard Winston's study closes with an analysis of *Death in Venice*, but as this book, with its painstaking devotion to orderly chronology makes plain, Mann's long and fruitful life cannot be properly understood unless seen whole.

The plan for the biography emerged from Winston's work as co-translator, with his wife Clara, of Thomas Mann's letters. The result is an extremely detailed and careful running-through of all the evidence, taking every stone revealed by the letters and turning it over to examine a link with the published works. This does begin to build a picture of the growing young writer, but the unalloyed making of connections is a touch obsessive.

It might be protested that no other method would do for Mann, who was above all a literary reporter. He himself wrote, "nothing is invented in *Death in Venice*"—it is all observed—and much the same could be said of *Buddenbrooks*, a careful reconstruction of his own family's history. To appreciate what essence is missing in Winston's unfinished work, one has only to recall Edgar Johnson's classic biography of that more universal reporter, Charles Dickens, which uses the same method of piling up the facts but, by some magic, brings its subject to life and quickly makes the reader feel he has known him well.

Posh times aboard the P & O

BY BRIAN AGER

Beneath the House Flag of the P & O
by Peter Padfield. Hutchinson, £9.95, 147 pages

The Empire builders who travelled "Port Out, Starboard Home" between Britain and the Far East held the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company in special affection.

P & O from the early days took a pride in running a tight ship, but the strict rules, including an early "lights out," which even first-class passengers had to obey, were more than compensated for by the food and drink the line provided.

Judging from Peter Padfield's book, almost the whole day must have been devoted to eating and drinking. The company invited intending passengers to sample a glass of its claret before they booked their passage. Mr Padfield has made generous use of diaries kept by passengers and officers, who took a fierce pride in the P & O and considered themselves to be the élite of the merchant service.

The first of these travellers' tales is set in the time before the opening of the Suez Canal when part of the journey to the East was across the desert. The passengers seemed to have found that this part of the trip was more wearing than being cooped up in the shipboard accomodation, which was little changed from that aboard sailing ships.

Then came the heyday of liner travel at the turn of the century, with passengers joining in silly games, concerts and fancy dress competitions to relieve the boredom of the voyage.

This is contrasted with the modern cruise-liner, where everything is organised, much on the lines of (dare I say it) a holiday camp . . . until it is requisitioned by the Royal Navy!

Mr Padfield has produced a well-illustrated social history with a love of the P & O which is perfectly proper for one who served on its routes to Australia and New Zealand.

HOW TO SPEND IT

by Lucia van der Post

Put some sparkle into his life

I'M NOT quite sure about the deeper sociological implications of the matter (there are bound to be some, there always are) but it appears that 1982 is the year when jewellery for men is going to take off in a big way. Or at any rate that is what the Diamond and Gold Information Centres would bave us believe. Both organisations, of course, have a vested interest in the matter so their judgment cannot be said to be entirely objective. Nevertheless they bave been exceedingly ingenious in making the proposition look quite attractive.

They've done away with all that awful vulgarity usually associated with men and jewellery—all those clanking identity bracelets, those gaudy signet rings, those medallions nestling in the chest-bair, not to mention the odd (usually very odd) earring—and produced collections of what might be called restrained good taste.

There will be some (because you can't please all of the people all of the time) who will think that restrained good taste is not wbat jewellery is all about. Its prime function through the ages, after all, has not been so much to adorn as to indicate wealth and status and there's nothing very tasteful about that.

Be that as it may, De Beers is quite aure that there must be a market out there if only it can be tapped. After all, it's not as if jewellery for men is such a very advanced notion. As far back as the time of the Pharaohs it was the men who wore the really important jewels. Indeed, it wasn't until Charles I of France gave his mistress Agnes Sorel diamond jewellery that diamonds began to be associated with women—until then diamonds were a symbol of power and power, as we all know, lay with men.

Henry VII covered himself with gems of every size and colour and all those respectable suburban mothers worrying about the single earring lurking in their son's ear-lobe might feel better if they reflect that Charles I himself got that particular fashion going—be wore a single pearly earring all his grown-up life and rumour has it that he even wore it going to the block.

Though the historical precedents for the adornment of men are impeccable, something has been going a little wrong lately and De Beers felt it was time it gingered things up a little bit (diamond sales, as we all know, are not quite what they used to be). It kicked off in an admirably stylish way by persuading some exceedingly attractive men (most notably Michael White, the theatrical impresario, Martin Sbaw, the actor and Douglas Hayward, the tailor) to wear some of its latest diamond numbers.

In the afternoon light of Harry's Bar it took a little while to spot the jewellery, so discreet and tasteful did it turn out to be. Michael White waa wearing the most understated and elegant of tie-pins (at least that is what I thought it was, but the press release informs me that it is a diamond set paper clip) es well as some matt-black cuff-links with the tiniest, least vulgar of diamonds in the middle.

Derek Bell was wearing a diamond collar bar in the shape of a "safety-pin" (very posh punk) and a ring I wasn't so sure I cared for.

Then there were all manner of diamond-studded watches, atick-pins, cuff-links, studs to enliven bow-ties (is this, I ask myself, a real problem?) and even a belt quietly adorned with one sparkling diamond.

I have my personal doubts as to how essential a role these will play in most men's lives but tha market research done by the De Beers group does show that beneath the sober pinstripe lies many a man who is longing for the woman in his life to lavish him with diamond jewellery, but not many of them were very hopeful of their chances.

One summed up the disappointment of endless birthdays and Christmases awash with ties and socks when ha said "Certainly if something like a ring was given to me I would wear it. I would be pleased although usually I get something like tools."

Wives it seems are the big stumbling block to the greater adornment of men. This wife seems typical of many: "I get something that I think he *needs* or I *want*. I don't think he is particularly interested (ie in jewellery for himself)."

After De Beers had done its bit towards improving the sales of diamonds the Gold Information Council laid on its own entertainment designed to improve the sales of gold. Its efforts *went into persuading* men to buy more gold cuff-links.

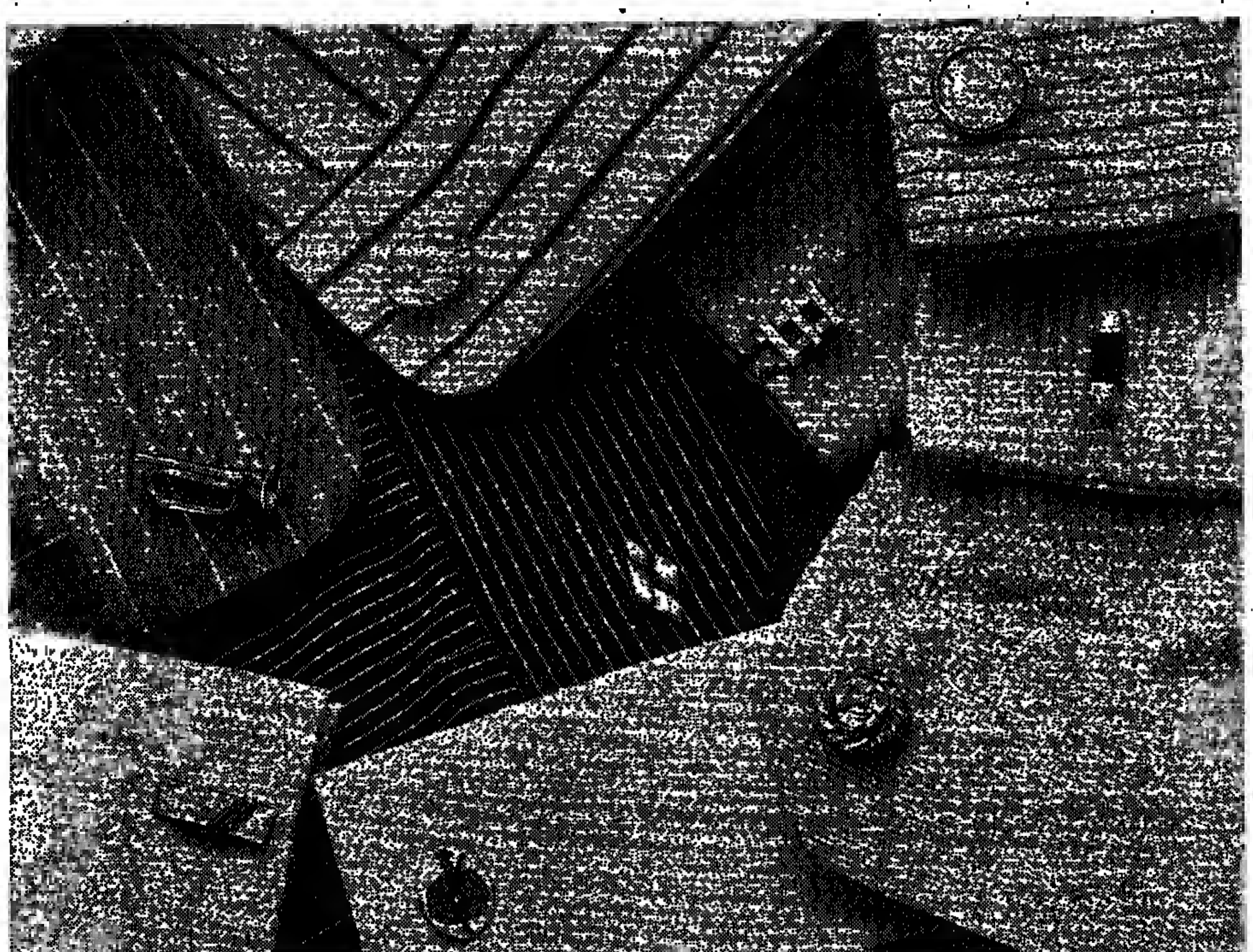
Money seemed to have been no object and the whole promotion was done with much panache. Tailors, shirtmakers, fashion houses, designers and retailers were all asked to cooperate in its campaign for more and better cuff-links and certainly for those (like myself) who have never looked into the world of cuff-links so closely before, it came as quite a revelation to see in how many different shapes, sizes, patterns and designs they could come. The only thing they all had in common was that none of them comes cheap.

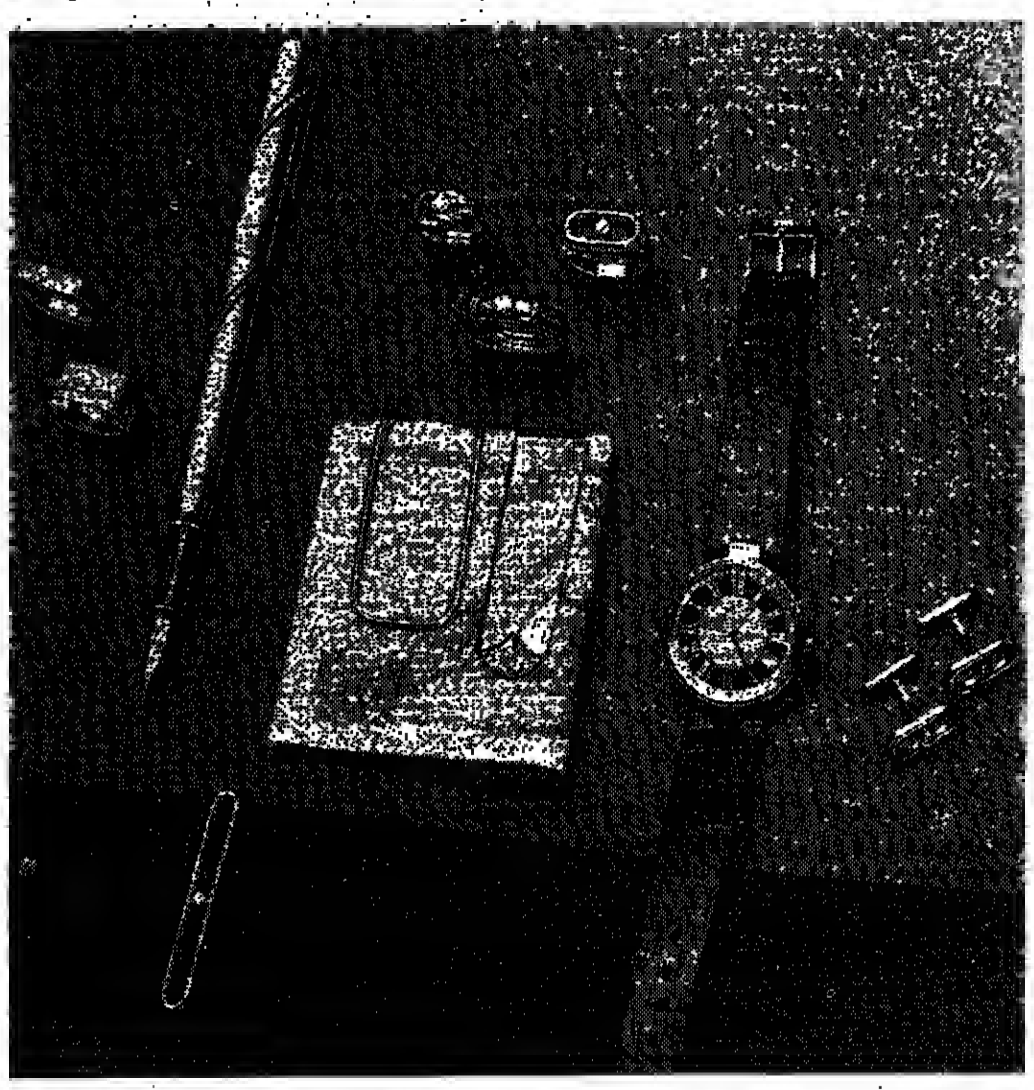
The Gold Information Office is at least as keen on history as De Beers and informs me that tho cuff-link as we know it today was born in the 13th century. Louis IX wore them adorned with precious and semi-precious stones in the middle of tbe 13th century and by the time Louis XIV became the Sun King the nobility and the landed gentry were allowed to wear them, too.

Most people think the reason cuff-links are no longer quite so fashionable as once they were is that fewer men are wearing the double-cuff that best sets them off. However, it is often possible to buy double-cuffed shirts even in chein-stores and they can certainly be worn with single cuffs, as our photograph shows.

As far as I'm concerned gold cuff-links have one great advantage that doesn't apply to tie-pins, diamond-encrusted belts, signet rings and the like — that is, they all would look just as good on me.

Diamonds for men, as you can see, are nothing new. Shah Jehan, ruler of India from 1628 to 1658, was flaunting them long before De Beers had been heard of.





Valiant attempts by the Gold Information Council to lure men into more elegant ways (and part with more of their money) resulted in Operation Cuff Link in which a handful of leading jewellery designers were invited to roll up their sleeves and put their best cuff forward. Above is a round-up of some of their offerings.

Though most people would agree that cuff-links look best on shirts with a double cuff, it is perfectly possible to wear them in single cuff shirts as the photograph shows. But for those who do think that nothing displays a good cuff-link like a classic French cuff Marks and Spencer bas just produced a range of ahirts that sport the double-cuff. In a variety of colours, sizes 14½ to 17½ they all cost £7.99 each.

Whether your tastes run to the plain and subtle or the outlandish and distinctly different, there is now a wider range of cuff-links to choose from than ever before—certainly all of them make a welcome change from the ubiquitous plastic button.

From top left, clockwise: 9 carat gold "bugle" cuff-link, £355 a pair, by Julie Crossland, shirt by Peter England; 18 carat gold oval cuff-link, £255 a pair, from Ramsden and Roed, shirt by Tern; 18 caret "bridle gate" cuff-link, £520 a pair, by Geoffrey Turk, ahirt by Hilditch and Key; Krugerrand cuff-link in 18 caret mount, £666 a pair by David Thomas, shirt from Austin Reed; 9 carat gold and agate cuff-link, £210 a pair, by Christopher Wharton, shirt from Rocola; 18 carat gold "sunny face" cuff-link, £720 a pair, from De Vroomen Design, shirt by Van Heusen; 9 carat and enamel "road to ruin" cuff-link, £410 a pair, from Deakin and Francis, shirt from Simpson; 18 carat gold "flash" cuff-link, £529 a pair, by Stephen Maer, shirt from Marks and Spencer.

In the centre, 18 carat gold "double diamond" cuff-link, £405 a pair, from Argenta, shirt from Richard Jones. For further details of cuff-links and stockists contact the Gold Information Office, 30 St George Street, London W1 (Tel. 01-499 9201).

Could diamonds ever be a man's best friend? De Beers, not surprisingly, would lika to think so and to this end have devised an endless number of objects to whicb a diamond can, at no inconsiderable cost, be attached. A selection of some of the very latest pieces designed with men in mind is shown above.

For those who are bored with plain old ball-points and are prepared to pay for the novelty, what abont the diamond pen by Alfred Dunhill of 30 Duke Street, London SW1. At the princely sum of £2,635, it is not the sort of pen yon could ever afford to lose. Or perhaps yan are one of those "old timers" who is sick to death of the digital watch, preferring instead the reassuring face of Roman numerals. For yon Alfred Dunhill has produced a classically-shaped timepiece encrusted in diamonds, for £4,415.

Ring wearers can cboose from solitaire diamond settings such as the ring, centre left by CIG of 12 Teville Gate, Worthing, Sussex, £345, the centre ring by De Vroomen Design, £880 and the right ring by David Thomas, £618. The diamond cuff-links (bottom right of the picture) are also by David Thomas, £687. For a big spender what about these diamond money clips by GIG (centre left) the single diamond is £230 and the pave-set diamond (right centre) £540. Finally there's the diamond tie clip from David Thomas (bottom left) £556 and bis discreet diamond tie stnd (far bottom left corner), £250. More rings for those wbo find plain hands borlug are to be seen to the left of the pen—enquiries to De Beers.

Postscript

MOST picnics nowadays seem rather mundane affairs — one catches glimpses of rather limp-looking white bread sandwiches and the odd piece of fruit being consumed in all those parking lots that most picnickers saem to think are suitably rustic venues—but once upon a time they were really quite splendid events. The word, so I learn from the brochure of a newish company called Nuttall which aims to revive the glamorous picnic, first appeared in England in 1800 and referred to a Society which performed theatricals and social entertainments. By 1802 The Times was reporting details of Pic Nic suppers. Each subscriber to the entertainment drew lots against a bill of fare and this obliged him to furnish the dish he drew, which was then delivered to the picnic by his carriage or servant.

Servants and carriages being rather thin on the ground these days Nuttalls aims to offer itself instead. Nuttall will deliver a complete willow hamper with all plates, glasses, cutlery, utensils, salt, pepper, cockscrew, table linen, food and wine to tha designated place—all you need to do is pick it up at a convenient collection point.

The servica, it has to be said, is not cheap but it is complete. You pay no deposits, need to return nothing — you keep hamper, table linen and the rest. The hampers on offer range from the Royal Ascot Hamper for Six (which includes poached salmon, fillet de boeuf-en-croute, galantine of chicken, stilton, Bollinger, two sorts of wine and Green's Superior Old Tawny Port) at £130 to afternoon tea for four (eight open sandwiches, including smoked salmon, trout on rye, roast baef, fresh baked scones, Florentines, coffee and walnut cake and vacuum flask of tea) for £25. Whatever the event, whether equestrian, equatic, musical or sporty, romantic or commercial, Nuttall will offer a hamper to match.

Nuttall Hampers is at The Manor House, Park Road, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire (Tal. 02814 5323).

●

MORE and more really good cheese shops have sprung up round the country in recent years but there are still areas where the local grocery shop does not offer much more than a few standard pieces of cheddar, some rather soapy-looking imports and the odd portion of Stilton round about Christmas-time.

Paxton & Whitfiald, probably the most famous cheese shop in the country, has decided to make its famous cheeses available to everyone. It proposes to do this by founding what it calls the "Paxton & Whitfield Cheese Club." Each month members will receive a selection of five very different cheeses.

Each piece of cheese will weigh about 12 oz. and each is carefully wrapped to keep it in as good a condition as possible. With the cheeses come full colour leaflets explaining its origins, its history and manufacture.

The membership is run on simple lines — no commitment to join for more than a month at a time, no signing up for a year or more at a time. To join you just send £9 to the club. This automatically enrols you and you receive your first package. Each month's package (£9) is accompanied by an order form for the next selection with no obligation to take it up.

However, for anybody wanting to discover more about unusual cheeses or simply wanting a steady supply of good, interesting cheese, the club sounds like a good idea. Write to Paxton & Whitfield Cheese Club, 93 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6JE for further details.

●

Keen cooks, within reach of Amersham in Buckinghamshire, might like to note that a series of six one-day cookery courses will be held throughout the summer at Chenies Manor House, Chenies, Bucks. Elizabeth and Alistair Macleod Matthews, whose family home it is, use the profits from tha enterprise to help restore and repair tha beautiful old gabled Tudor house, once the home of the Earls of Bedford.

All the sessions are conducted by top names from the world of cookery and all allow time for tours of the Tudor-style gardens, the "physic" garden, the house and the collection of antique dolls.

Each day begins at 10.15 am with coffee, includes luncheon and tea and costs £20. Each session is on a Tuesday (May 25, June 8 and 29, July 13 and 27 and September 7) and each deals with a different aspect of food and cookery (from farmhouse and traditional cookery by Gail Duff to 18th century historical cookery by Michael Smith). All details, such as which sessions are held by whom on which day, can be obtained by writing to Chenies Manor House, Chenies, Bucks. Mark the envelope, "Chenies Manor Cookery Demonstrations, 1982."

ARTS

Everybody's world

BY B. A. YOUNG

On Wednesday, Radio 4 launched what looks like an important new feature, *A World in Common*. This eight-part series will deal, as its name suggests, with the mutual relationships of the richer and the poorer parts of the globe, conveniently called "the North" and "the South," though the first witness to speak, the King of Nepal, rules north of the crucial line.

The introductory programme did no more than expound what the situation was that had to be discussed. What is meant by "poor?" We heard a Scotswoman, barely able to pay for domestic essentials, indignant at having to wait six months before Social Security provided her with bunk beds for her sons. I have seen Bushman women (Bushwomen, as I suppose Roget now calls them) who must walk miles to fill a can with water and carry it home, home being a leaf-sheltered space. What is meant by "need?" A Bangladeshi speaker said that Asians regard aid as repayment of the wealth looted earlier by the already wealthy. A Tory MP and President Reagan both thought that the real need was to ensure an efficient industry at home. Daniel Snowman is the producer of the series, and William Clark, late of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, its adviser.

Two and a half hours of Shakespeare on Radio 4 on Thursday, not one of those old plays but a documentary account of his life, sort of. More is known about Shakespeare than the dates of his birth (more or less) and death and the name and address of his wife, and I cordially commend a book called *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Life*, by Prof S. Schoenbaum, which even contains photostats of most of the contemporary documents concerning him. No such detail in *I, William Shakespeare*, by John Wilders and John Powell, a documentary of a different breed which seeks only to emphasise facts with relevant quotations.

As such life-stories often do, it begins on the deathbed, where our 52-year-old poet recalls his career and dictates his will. "Hey, the doxy over the dale!" carols a boyish voice to a tune I used to know as "Caleno custure me," and in a moment we are poaching at Charlecote and singing "What shall he have that killed the deer?" For the principle is that everything in Shakespeare's life is recorded in his works. "What a piece of work is a man"—nothing to do with Hamlet, but Shakespeare's reflections on his father John. As Heminge and Condell said of the Bard, what he thought, he uttered.

So we run briskly, and I am afraid rather superficially, through that wonderful life, and every event gives birth to its quotation, by Shakespeare or one of his contemporaries. "Relevant," I said just now, and that is the trouble; they are relevant in subject, but when you can place the quote you start on an irrelevant train of thought. Plague closes the playhouses in 1592: "Alas, poor country, almost afraid to know itself!" But we all know that Macbeth, not the plague, made it so, and a different country anyway. I was reminded of some less serious concordance-drama by Paul Dehn. He has the Elsinore Gravedigger talking with Juliet's Nurse:

GRAVEDIGGER: Give me to drink mandragora.

NURSE: I have it not, not poppy or mandragora. Wouldst drink up eisel? Eat a crocodile?

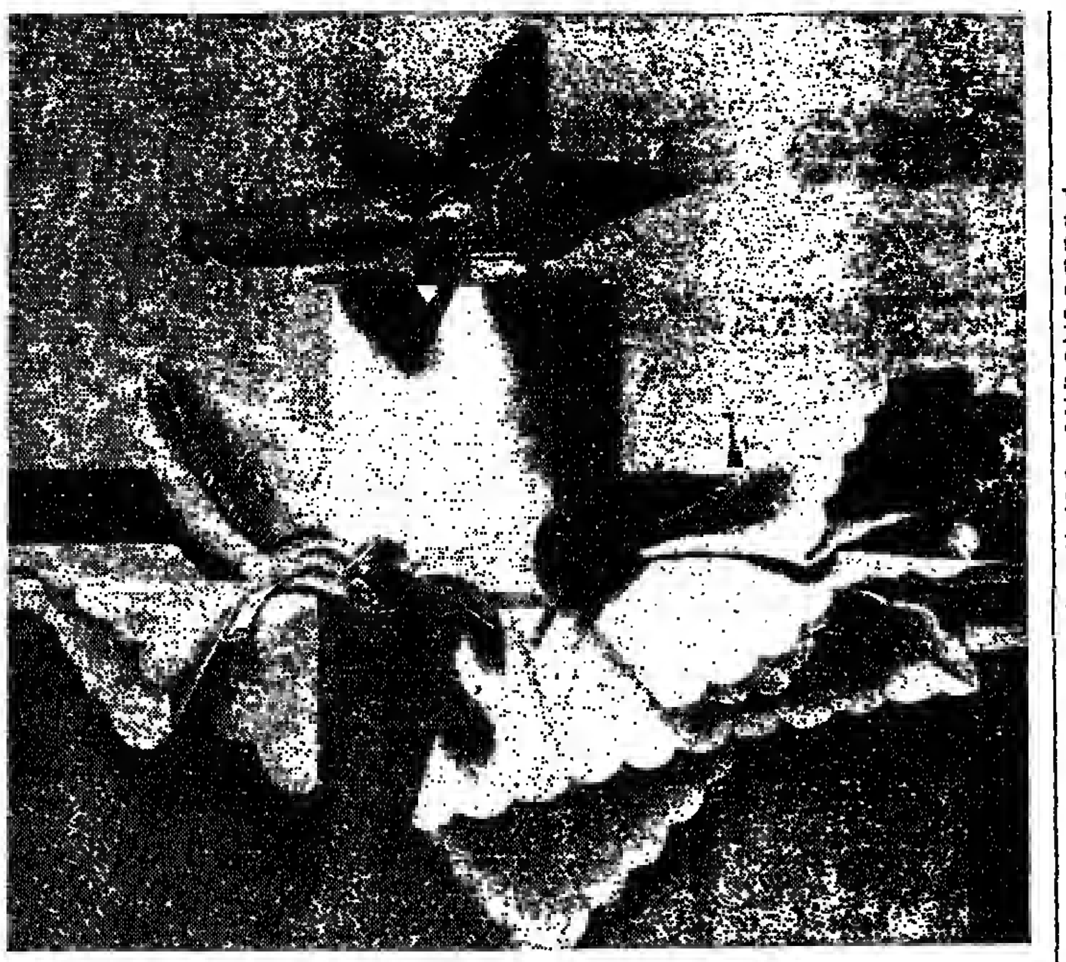
GRAVEDIGGER: What manner of thing is your crocodile?

NURSE: A morsel for a monarch.

And so on. All the same, this was an entertaining exercise even though myth and fact were treated with equal respect. Martin Jarvis was Shakespeare, John Powell himself directed.

A fine play by a playwright less respected in this country, Goethe's *Torquato Tasso*, was given a fine performance on Sunday on Radio 3. There was a new translation by Alan and Sandy Brownjohn into iambic pentameters with a current ring—momentarily too current when the neurotic poet had an important speech repeating the phrase "It's truly her!" Michael Pennington played Tasso, Eileen Atkins was the Princess, David Suchet was Antonio: how could you do better? John Theocharis directed.

On Thursday morning on Radio 1 we heard about the record producer Roy Thomas Baker, who may use six 24-tracks running in sync (sic). And in The Listener we read about the Fairlight Computer Musical Instrument, on which you can draw any kind of sound-wave with your light-pen and then get the machine to make the equivalent sound, in any register you want. Whatever became of music?



'Wings of the morning' by Edward Wadsworth

Edward Wadsworth

BY WILLIAM PACKER

The work of Edward Wadsworth, now at the Mayor Gallery until May 28, is among the most distinctive of contributions to the British Art of this century, ever au fait, cultivated, of its time, and always readily indentifiable as his alone, for though he had a wide association among his contemporaries, at home and abroad, he was never anything but his own man.

Yet for all that he remains oddly obscure, as it were critically unestablished, hard to place, the totl oeuvre rather less of a piece apparently than we might wish. We do like our categories, and do like our artists to respect them as they should; and with Wadsworth the transition from young Vorticist to Dazzle painter for the Royal Navy (and consummate wood-cut printmaker besides), to an ironical mastery of the surreal still-life, to Cunard muralist, to Associate of Munning's Royal Academy, is perhaps a little too much to comprehend.

A man of private means, something of a dilettante shall we say, who need not be taken too seriously? And yet the paintings themselves have the oddest way of coming back to rebuke our neglect or imperception, authentic, powerful, unforgettable and above all important pictures. With their every reappearance the thought is nudged that in spite of everything Wadsworth was an artist of real significance after all.

This exhibition at the Mayor Gallery is small, but even so is something of an event, for it consists mostly of major works from the 1920s, half of them landscapes and boatscapes, the rest his highly-charged of ambiguously symbolic still-lifes. All but one are painted in tempera, the medium he adopted at the turn of the decade, which of itself reinforces the peculiar qualities of the work, informed as they are by a timeless, brooding, even somewhat feverish atmosphere, the colour heightened, the contours sharp, the surface rich and dense. Tempera is necessarily a medium of slow deliberation and definition, the image worked up minutely, stroke by stroke.

If we use of them the word surreal, we must do so only in the most general way, for though these works, the still lifes especially, are certainly possessed of characteristic qualities of surrealism, their true antecedents and contemporary sympathies lie rather with the metaphysical works of a slightly earlier period, with the paintings of Carra, de Chirico and perhaps early Grosz.

In them too we see the *familiar transformed* into the bizarre and dream-like not simply by odd conjunction and surprise but by the mere act of intense scrutiny and representation. Such was the work with which Wadsworth at least associated his own; but what most resembled it between the wars, was that of another over-neglected painter, one whom he also knew. Pierre Roy too was a surrealist only by the easy association of working on through the high surrealist time.

Gregorian Variations

BY RONALD CRICHTON

Michael Berkeley's Gregorian Variations, commissioned for the Philharmonia Orchestra by the firm of du Maurier, had their first performance at the orchestra's Festival Hall concert on Thursday. As a boy Berkeley sang in Westminster Cathedral Choir where he absorbed plainsong as Walton, years earlier in an Anglican cathedral, absorbed another (also modally influenced) tradition. The point is made because one was reminded of the Walton church music heard recently in Westminster Abbey.

Berkeley's Variations are continuous. Though there are references to specific chants it is not they that are varied so much as modality itself, persuaded to confront and flirt with other styles such as jazz and pop which were another early influence. To judge from the Variations' opening pages, what one might for convenience (since such conflict, as there is sounds more musical than spiritual) call the profane influence followed quick on the heels of the sacred one.

The composer was asked, it appears to make his work "accessible to a lay audience at first hearing." Was this an inducement to use a large normal symphony orchestra? Michael Berkeley's palette is different from his father's — where Sir Lennox is discreet and fastidious his son uses lush texture without inhibition and with a cheerfulness and optimism which flush the sacred just as much as the profane elements incautiously identified above. The musical language is indeed unproblematical, the form however not immediately clear. Towards the end there is an arresting moment of questioning tension which, one feels, expects a more clinching resolution than it receives — yet a young man's musical autobiography has every right to be open-ended.

The Philharmonia and the conductor, André Previn, gave every sign of enjoying the new work. Previn and the orchestra were equally well-matched in the London Symphony of *Vaughan Williams*, an old favourite now neglected, which came up warts and all without any need for apology, in a finely burnished performance. The Four Last Songs of Strauss, were sung by Margaret Price, sovereign mistress of opulent tone and long-drawn line. What may be present standards be considered a quite adventurous programme drew a big house.

Beautiful Dreamer

BY B. A. YOUNG

If you like the songs of Stephen Collins Foster, you will have a great time at the Greenwich Theatre, where a sort of cartoon version of his life story is used as a medium for the singing of about 30 of them, mostly by Simon Green, a handsome young man with a pretty tenor voice, in the part of the composer. Sometimes he is assisted by four or five other players in barber-shop harmony; sometimes for a change we have a lady's voice from Christina Matthews, as his wife, or Dorothy Vernon, as his mother, an English lady or a New York music publisher (who just got "Beautiful dreamer" before Collins died).

The life story is cunningly carpentered by Roy Hudd so that we needn't pay too much attention to it. In short, diagrammatic scences, acted in the style commonly used for revivals of melodramas, we see Foster at home, failing to get into West Point, working as a book-keeper for his brother, writing and ultimately publishing songs, some performed by the Christy Minstrels, with a neat Christy by Harry Dickman. Marriage, drink, poverty and death, but always a song to keep us happy.

Grove doesn't differ much from Hudd. It gives Collins eight siblings rather than one, and says that it was his brother Dunning, not his brother Morrison, that he worked for. His first published song was not "Oh, Susannah!" but "Open thy lattice, love," and there was some orchestral music, too. But who cares? The Stephen Foster songs — "Camptown Races," "Massa's in de cold, cold ground," "Old folks at home," "My old Kentucky home," "Dixie," "Marching on Georgia," "I dream of Jeanie"—people still love them and would go on loving them even if they turned out to have been written by aBrtók. It's for those people that this show, directed by Roger Haines and designed by David Cockayne, is designed, and they adored it the night I was there.

Liz Robertson

Liz Robertson ise a star. We know it, she certainly knows it, and the six-piece band that accompanied her one-woman show last Sunday night at the Duke of York's knows it too. (There are two more performances this week-end.) It was one of those occasions when all criticism is swamped by showbiz at its schmaltziest and, in fairness, its most infectious.

The programme is an anthology of songs compiled by her husband, Alan Jay Lerner, and very modestly compiled too. His own songs do not dominate. And a programme which starts off with "Without a Song," includes "It's De Lovely," "Didn't We?" and, naturally enough, "I Could Have Danced All Night," bringing in Noël Coward's "Nina from Argentin" who declined to begin the beguine, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "The Birth of the Blues" does show off a performer's range.

Miss Robertson, or Mrs Lerner as she has been since last year, had the audience in the palm of her hand and some of the older stars in the stalls — I noticed Dame Anna Neagle — must have had their lace handkerchiefs out.

ALAN FORREST

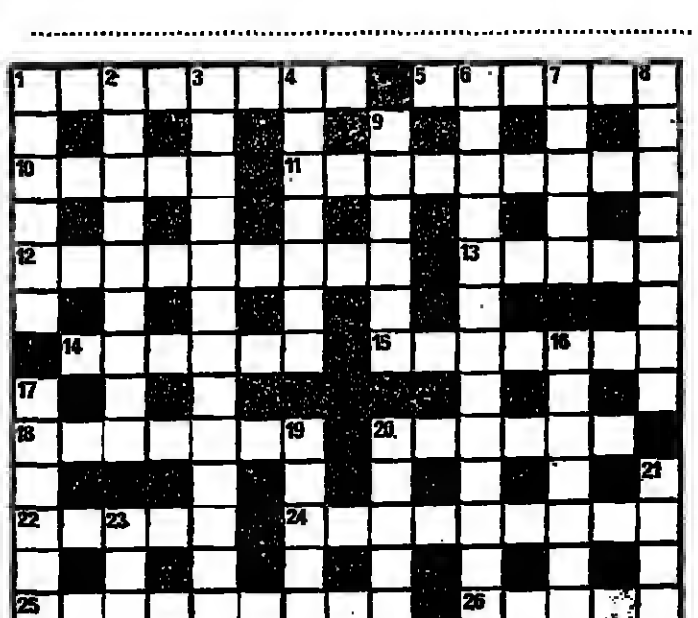
Arts Liaison is presenting a charity interview evening with jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli at the Waterloo Room, Royal Festival Hall, on Friday May 7 starting at 6.15 pm and ending at about 7.30. He will be talking about his long career with the writer, critic and broadcaster Charles Fox, and there will be recorded musical excerpts. Tickets are £2.30.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 4,855

A prize of £10 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....



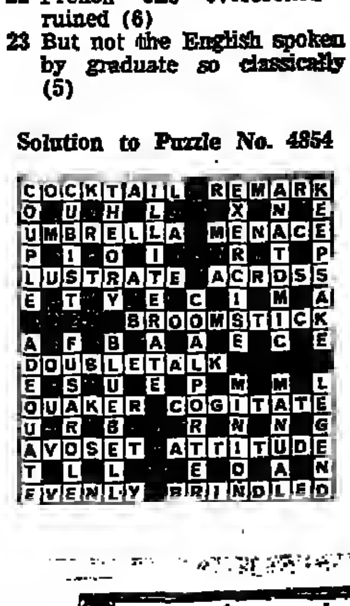
ACROSS

1 Jack, for instance, has to resist the invitation (4-4)
5 Marsh bird night for his shots? (6)
10 Some people put a brave face on it—Poles, for example (5)
11 Father, some deeds appear improper at school (9)
12 Mariner extremely deep at sea—rating? (9)
13 Conclude—hell, there is no getting away from it (5)
14 Standard disciple of the ministry? (6)
15 Find oew home for her retirement by the river . . . (7)
18 . . . ordinary second house (7)
20 Declare playing first-class cricket . . .(6)
22 . . . I twice bat badly but provide strong leg support (5)
24 No doing a U-turn this Jurassic type! (9)
25 People eating turn green—get the courier! (9)
26 Jones the architect in Mini going home (5)
27 Church in tiny reform—matter of delicate adjustment (6)
28 It drains off water when royal egg is cooked (8)

DOWN

1 Tense time to come? (6)
2 Poultice for Tom of Cheshire—Malpas perhaps (9)
3 So I am costing men having a flutter (10-5)
4 Keep away from such a burden (7)
6 Undignified yet? (15)
7 For impenetrability, use heading of pitch over ceiling (5)
8 Shy but engaged (8)
9 Superstitious people avoid it, left with awful dread (6)
16 Words of encouragement for one bringing up a child (3-1-5)
17 Who will, in loose Mackintoshes, hie away? (8)
19 Voting trends offsetting *roundabout losses?* (6)
20 Fishes in them need air coming up under water (7)
21 French one overcooked—ruined (6)
23 But not the English spoken by graduate so classically (5)

Solution to Puzzle No. 4854



TV/Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1

6.25-8.55 am Open University (Ultra High Frequency only). 9.05 Sorry Mate, I Didn't See You. 9.30 Get Set for Summer. 10.55 "Duel at Silver Creek," starring Audie Murphy. 12.12 pm Weather.
12.15 Grandstand including 12.50 News Summary; Football Focus; Boxing: Highlights of the Duff/Barrett promotion; Racing from Leicester; World Ice Hockey Championships: Tennis: Tha State Express Classic.
5.10 The Dukes of Hazzard.
6.00 News.
6.10 Regional Sports / News programmes.
6.15 Saturday Film: "The Great Waldo Pepper starring Robert Redford, Bo Svenson, Susan Sarandon and Margot Kidder.
8.00 Eurovision Song Contest.
10.15 News and Sport.
10.30 Match of the Day.
11.30 "Pearl": Spectacular three-part drama about the days which led to America's entry into World War II.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS: Cymru/Wales — 6.10-6.15 pm Sports News Wales.

Scotland—1.05-1.20 and 1.40-1.50 pm Boxing (opt-out from Grandstand). 6.10-6.15 Scoreboard. 10.30-11.30 Sportscene. 1.00 am Scottish News Summary.

Northern Ireland—5.00-5.10 pm Scoreboard. 6.10-6.15 Northern Ireland News. 1.00 am Northern Ireland News Headlines.

England—6.10-6.15 pm South-West (Plymouth): Spotlight Sport. All other English regions: Sport/Regional News.

BBC 2

6.25-7.40 am and 8.05-3.10 pm Open University.
3.10 Saturday Cinema: "One More Time," starring Sammy Davis Jr.
4.40 Tennis: The State Express Classic.
6.00 Oystermen of the Fal.
6.30 A Right to a Living.
7.00 News and Sport.
7.20 Did You See . . . ?
8.00 Washington: Behind Closed Doors.
9.35 Tennis: State Express Classic.
10.20 Man Alive.
11.10 News Headlines.
†11.15-12.30 am Tha Films of Orson Welles: "Journey Into Fear," starring Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten and Dolores Del Rio.

LONDON

9.35 am Sesame Street. 10.30 Cartoon Time. 10.45 The Adventures of Black Beauty. 11.15 Space 1999.
12.15 pm World of Sport: presented by Dickie Davies. 12.20 On the Ball; 12.45 Karting—FSO Cars Superkart Challenge; 1.00 Cycling—The Paris-Roubaix: 1.15 News; 1.20 The ITV Six from Sandown and Beverley; 3.10 Gymnastics—USA v USSR from Gainsville, Florida, plus Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics — The Soviet Woman Prize from Moscow; 3.45 Half-time Soccer News and Reports; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.50 Results.
5.05 News.
5.15 Worzel Gummidge.
5.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century.
6.45 3-2-1.
7.45 "Rollercoaster," starring George Segal, Richard Widmark, Timothy Bottoms, Susan Strasberg and Henry Fonda.
9.55 pm News, plus Falklands Extra.
10.25 A Change in Time.
11.40 London News Headlines followed by Bizarre with John Byner.
12.10 am Adult Continental Movie: "The Twist," starring Bruce Dern.
2.00 am Close: Sit Up and Listen with Dr Joseph Needham.

All IBA Regions as London except at the following times:

ANGLIA

9.00 am Sesame Street. 10.00 Sport Billy. 10.25 Thunderbirds. 11.20 Tarzan. 5.45 pm Chips. 11.40 Vegas. 12.35 am At The End Of The Day.

BORDER

9.40 am *Untamed World*. 10.05 Tarzan. 10.55 The Adventures of Black Beauty. 5.45 pm Chips. 11.40 The Streets of San Francisco.

CENTRAL

9.15 am 3-2-1 Contact. 9.45 Sesame Street. 10.45 Stingrey. 11.15 Off the Record. 11.45 International Bowls. 5.45 pm Chips. 11.35 Bizarre. 12.05 am Vivien Road In Concert.

CHANNEL

5.15 pm Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 5.20 W.K.R.P. in Cincinnati. 5.45 Sale of the Century. 6.15 Mr Merlin. 11.40 Bizarre. 12.10 am Video Sounds.

GRAMPIAN

9.35 am *Spiderman*. 10.00 *Tarzan*. 10.50 Welcome Back Kotter. 5.45 pm Chips. 11.40 Reflections. 11.45 Thriller.

GRANADA

9.25 am The Flying Kiwi. 9.50 The Undersea Adventures of Captain Nemo. 9.55 Sport Billy. 10.15 Sesame Street. 5.45 pm Chips. 11.40 "The Mephisto Waltz," starring Curt Jurgens and Alan Alda.

TSW

9.55 am The Adventures of Black Beauty. 10.20 Sesame Street. 11.20 Space 1999. 12.30 pm HTV News. 5.13 HTV News. 5.45 Hawaii Five-O. 11.40 The Palace Presents: Rita Moreno joins host Jack Jones.

HTV Cymru/Wales—As HTV West except: 9.55-10.20 am Razzmatazz. 5.15-5.45 pm Sion a Sian.

SCOTTISH

9.20 am Vicky the Viking. 9.45 Thunderbirds. †10.35 Saturday Morning Picture Show: "Dr Strangelove," starring Peter Sellers, George C. Scott and Sterling Hayden. 5.45 pm Chips. 11.40 Bizarre. 12.10 am Late Call. 12.15 That's Hollywood.

TSW

9.05 am Wheelie and the Chopper Bunch. 9.30 The Saturday Show. 10.30 The Incredible Hulk. 11.20 Sport Billy. 11.45 *The Adventures of Black Beauty*. 12.12 pm TSW Regional News. 5.18 Newsport. 5.20 WKRP In Cincinnati. 5.45 Sale of the Century. 6.15 Mr *Merlin*. 11.35 Bizarre. 12.05 am Video Sounds. 12.35 Postscript. 12.40 South West Weather.

TVS

9.15 am Saturday Briol. 9.20 Sesame Street. 10.20 Sport Billy. 10.45 Space 1999. 11.45 Film Fun. 5.15 pm TVS News. 5.50 The Incredible Hulk. 11.40 The Two of Us. 12.10 am The Entertainers (Johnny Logan). 12.40 Company.

TYNE TEES

9.00 am Story Hour. 9.55 Cartoon Time. 10.05 Joe 90. 10.30 Saturday Morning Movie: "Captain Sinbad." 12.13 pm North East News. 5.15 North East News. 5.45 Chips. 6.45 3-2-1. 11.40 The Monte Carlo Show starring Anthony Newley. 12.35 am *Three's Company*.

ULSTER

10.00 am Sesame Street. 11.00 The *Flying Kiwi*. 11.25 *Thunderbirds*. 1.18 pm Lunchtime News. 5.00 Sports Results. 5.13 Ulster News. 5.45 Chips. 10.09 Ulster Weather. 11.40 The Irish Cup Final *(highlights of the Bass Irish Cup Final)*. 12.25 am News.

YORKSHIRE

9.00 am Hero's Boomer. 9.20 Thunderbirds. 10.10 The Adventures of Black Beauty. 10.35 The Saturday Morning Picture Show: "King Solomon's Mines," starring Stewart Granger and Deborah Kerr. 5.45 pm The Incredible Hulk. 11.35 Bizarre. 12.05 am That's Hollywood.

RADIO 1

(s) Stereophonic broadcast (when broadcast on vhf)

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Wake Up to the Weekend with Adrian John. 9.00 Tony Blackburn's Saturday Show. *10.00 Paul Burnett.* 1.00 pm Adrian Juste (s). 2.00 A King in New York (s). 2.05 Paul Gambaccini (s). 4.00 Walters' Weekly (s). 5.00 Rock On (s). 6.30-7.30 In Concert (s).

RADIO 2

5.00 am *Tony Brandon* with The Saturday Early Show (s). 8.05 Sports Desk. 8.05 David Jacobs (s). 10.00 Don McLean with Star Choice (s). *11.02 Sports Desk.* 11.03 *Steve Jones* (s). 1.00 pm The News Huddlines. 1.30 Sport on 2: Football: commentary on a top league game, news of others; Racing from Sandown at 2.15, 2.55 and 3.35; Tennis: Gerald Williams reports from two top tournaments. 5.00 Country Greats in Concert. 7.00 Jazz Score with Benny Green. 7.30 Big Band Special (s). 8.00 Eurovision Song Contest (s). 10.00 Nerdring 81 (s). 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.10 Pete Murray's *Late Show* (s). 12.05 am Sports Desk. 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music (s).

RADIO 3

7.55 am Weather. 8.00 News. 8.05 Aubade (s). 9.00 News. 9.05 Record Review (s). 10.15 Stereo Release (s). 11.30 Bandstand (s). 12.00 Haydn String Quartets (s). 1.00 pm News. 1.05 *Early Music Forum* (s). 2.00 The Symphonies of Mahler (s). 4.15 Images of Debussy (s). 5.45 Critics' Forum. 6.35 Benjamin Kaplan piano recital (s). 7.25 *The Devil You Don't Know*: "Goethe, Jung, Faust and Alchemy" (talk by Stephen Abrams). 7.45 "Hymenaeus," opera in three acts by Handel, Act 1 (s). 8.45 Interval Reading. 8.50 "Hymenaeus," Act 2. 9.35 Interval Reading. 9.40 "Hymenaeus," Act 3. 10.40 Herpes Simplex (short story). 11.00 News. 11.05-11.15 Max Bruch (s).

RADIO 4

5.25 am *Shipping Forecast*. 5.30 News. 5.32 Farming Today. 5.50 Yours Faithfully. 5.55 Weather, travel, programme news. 7.00 News. 7.10 *Today's Papers*. 7.15 On *Your Farm*. 7.45 Yours Faithfully. 7.50 It's a Bargain. 7.55 Weather, travel, programme news. 8.00 News. 8.10 *Today's Papers*. 8.15 Sport on 4. 8.48 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Breakaway from Glasgow. 9.50 News Stand. 10.05 *The Week in Westminster*. 10.30 Daily Service (s). 10.45 Pick of the Week (s). 11.35 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 News. 12.02 pm *Money Box*. 12.27 *I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue* (s). 12.55 Weather, programme news. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 *News*. 2.05 *Thirty-Minute Theatre* (s). 2.35 Medicine Now. 3.05 Wildlife. 3.30 The British Seafarer (s). 4.15 The Dragon and the Bear. 4.30 Does He Take Sugar? 5.00 Peter as Pilgrim (s). 5.25 Week Ending (s). 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather, travel, programme news. 6.00 News, including Sports Round-up. 6.15 Desert Island Discs (s). 6.55 Stop the Week with Robert Robinson (s). 7.35 Baker's Dozen (s). 8.30 Saturday Night Theatre (s). 9.58 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.10 Something To Declare. 11.00 Lighten Our Darkness (s). 11.15 Stop the Week with Robert Robinson (s). [illegible] 12.00 News.

BBC RADIO LONDON

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.32 Good Fishing. 8.00 News, weather, travel. 8.05 London Today. 8.30 Travel Round-up. 8.33 Westminster at Work. 9.03 The Magic Carpet Company. 9.30 Openings. 10.02 All That Jazz. 11.30 *The Robbie Vincent Show*. 2.02 pm Breakthrough. 3.30 The Great Composers. 5.00 Guideline. 5.30 Quest. 8.00-5.00 am Join Radio 2.

LONDON BROADCASTING

7.00 am AM with *Jenny Lacey* and Magnus Carter. 10.00 Jellybone with Tommy Boyd. 12.00 LBC Reports with Des Fahy. 1.00 pm Sportswatch with *Dominic Allen*. 8.00 *LBC Reports* with Des Fahy. 7.00 Geet Mala (programme for Asian listeners). 8.00 Network: Mr Gilbert and Mr Sullivan (part 1). *9.00 LBC Special: The Sinai Peninsula.* 10.00 Nightline. 1.00 am Night Extra. 4.00 Hayes on Sunday. 4.30 Decision Makers. 5.00 Morning Music.

CAPITAL RADIO

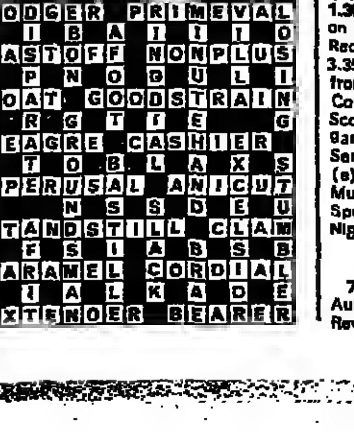
7.00 am Graham Dene's Breakfast Show. 10.00 Pick of the Tops Take Two with Alan Freeman. 12.00 Peter Young. 2.00 pm Duncan Johnson's Afternoon Delight. 8.00 Greg Edwards' Soul Spectrum. 8.00 Juke Box Saturday Night. 9.00 Richard Digance and Folk Friends. 10.00 Roots Rockers with David Rodigan. 12.00 Midnight *Special*.

SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 4849

Mrs J. E. Wight, 1 Northampton Road, Bromham, Bedford.

Mr R. I. Willians, Portland Lodge, Wodehouse Road, Old Hunstanton, Norfolk.

Mr K. A. Woodall, 2 St Nicholas Close, Allestree, Derby.



CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No. 420

Polugaevsky was right. The game ended 1 BxP, R-K8 ch; 2 K-R2 (not 2 RxR? QxQ), RxR (now White's queen is pinned); 3 B-Q5 ch! and Black resigned. If 3 . . . RxB; 4 QxQ ch, or if 3 . . . K-B1; 4 B-N7 ch, K-K1; 5 B-B7 mate.

Solution to Problem No. 420

1 Q-B6 (threat 2 Q-N6 mate), PxQ; 2 NxP, B-N4; 3 NxP mate.

COLLECTING

Mark time with Cromwell

BY JANET MARSH

THE PERIOD of the English Commonwealth witnessed another revolution, largely effected in this country, which was to have universal implications. An invention of simplicity and genius at one blow made possible the absolute measurement of time.

Clocks and watches of beauty and ingenuity had existed for the best part of three centuries; but just how vague was the assessment of time before the middle of the 17th century can be judged from the advice to watch owners of John Smith in his *Horological Dialogues* of 1675. Not only did he recommend that watches should be constantly reset by reference to some handy sun-dial, but urged that the same dial should always be used, "because 'tis seldom known that two Sun-dials go true together."

The revolutionary invention—which by this date had already made true time-keeping possible—was the pendulum. Galileo had noted in the previous century that gravity causes a pendulum of a given length to swing with absolute regularity. His son Vincenzio is reputed to have applied the principle to a clock mechanism in Venice in 1640; but the first certain demonstration of a pendulum clock is attributable to the Dutch mathematician Christian Huygens, who in 1657 assigned the invention to a clockmaker of The Hague called Salomon Coster.

The same year Coster took into his service a young Londoner of Dutch descent, John Fromanteel; and when Fromanteel returned home in 1658 his family firm appears instantly to have set to work in earnest on the production of pendulum clocks. One of the most-quoted documents in horological history is father Ahasuerus Fromanteel's advertisement in *The Commonwealth Mercury* in November 1658 for "Clockes that go exact and keep *Equaller time than any now* made without the Regulator."

The Fromanteels created an entirely new form of clock to incorporate the new movement and thus the long-case clock, the uniquely English style of time-piece, was born. The formal innovation was to create a tall architectural case long enough to house the driving weights, and at the same time to provide a dust-proof case for the increasingly delicate works and a prominent display for the dial.

Fromanteel's first clocks used a short bob pendulum. The scientist Robert Hooke demonstrated the advantages of a longer pendulum with a regular one-second swing, necessitating a wider casing than the slender first long-case clocks. The bulky new long-case clocks were the first to be regularly housed in wooden casings—at first characteristically of oak veneered with ebony, later following the vagaries of cabinet-making fashion.

In his valuable survey *Complete British Clocks* (David and Charles, 1978) Brian Loomes speculates that Fromanteel's career and fame suffered after the Restoration because of his Cromwellian sympathies. However, he and the other ingenious clock-makers of the latter 17th century, aided by scientists like Hooke—who also devised the ideal escapement for the new clock—constantly refined this essentially national clock, whose reign was to last 200 years.

(Oddly enough, the popular name of "grandfather" may well have come into use only after the long-case clock had seen its great days. The Oxford English Dictionary supposes that the name followed the popular song of the 1880s.)

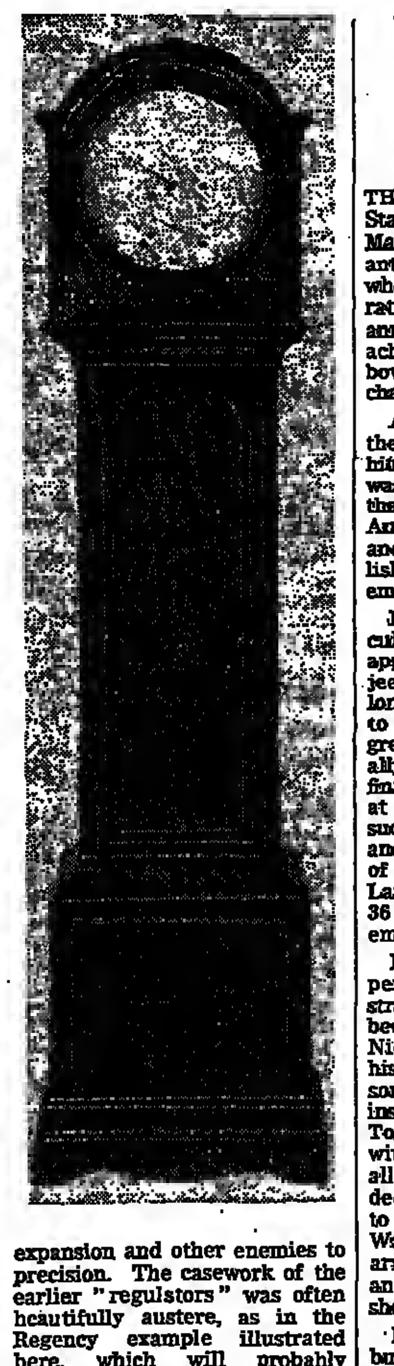
For the collector there are many ways of appreciating clocks—all requiring degrees of caution. The scientifically minded will try to trace the development of the mechanism *and the introduction of new* refinements and elaborations like calendars and indicators of the lunar phases—no frivolous luxury in times when nocturnal journeys had to be planned according to available moonlight.

There are the aesthetic aspects—the casework, which in the course of two centuries embraced some of the finest and some of the most shoddy and showy English cabinet making; or the design of dials, at first made in brass or steel, later with the exquisite enamel or japanned work of the end of the 18th century.

Brian Loomes is one of the writers who have championed the British provincial clock. Until comparatively recently the sophisticated London-made clocks and the work of the (often London-trained) major craftsmen of regional cities were preferred. Mr Loomes points out the charm, the ingenuity and energy of more rustic clocks, particularly those from the times when the trade was still "clock-smith" rather than "clock-maker."

Collecting long-case clocks used to be easier and cheaper. I remember being astounded, less than 20 years ago, that it was possible to buy beautiful and elaborate mechanisms, of such age and quality and in going order, for under £30. And that was for an 18th-century, eight-day clock. A 19th-century 30-hour affair would be practically given away in the mid-'60s. Times and appreciation have changed: today those prices have far outrun inflation and multiplied 40-fold and more.

Setting aside the classic names (Christies are selling a Daniel Quare on Wednesday), the aristocrats of the long-case clock are the "regulators"—clocks for purposes where absolute accuracy was demanded, and incorporating extraordinary refinements to counter the effects of heat



expansion and other enemies to precision. The casework of the earlier "regulators" was often beautifully austere, as in the Regency example illustrated here, which will probably realise around £4,000 (a modest enough price by today's standards) in Christies sale on Wednesday.

SPORT

In spite of the TV ratings, **Ben Wright** votes for Craig Stadler

The rise of a new golf superstar

THAT Craig "The Walrus" Stadler, winner of U.S. Masters, is still very much an anti-hero was made obvious when CBS television's audience ratings for the tournament were announced as lower than those achieved by a recent 10-pin bowling event on ABC, the rival channel.

A duel between Stadler and the American tour's longest hitter, non-winner Dan Pohl, was obviously less attractive than the 1981 confrontation at Augusta between Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus as the published figures graphically emphasised.

But Nicklaus knows how difficult it can be to win public approbation, having been jeered as "Fat Jack" in those long gone years when he dared to challenge the "king," the great Arnold Palmer. Incidentally, Palmer, who is now 52, finished last of the 47 qualifiers at Augusta National, but since such luminaries as Hale Irwin and Johnny Miller, not to speak of Europe's pride, Bernhard Langer, were eliminated after 36 holes, Palmer hardly embarrassed himself.

It may seem almost perverse, perhaps even laughable, but I *strongly believe Stadler will* become golf's next superstar, as Nicklaus's skill ebbs away and his nerve ends fray. Not Watson, who is far too erratic and insufficiently charismatic; not Tom Kite, who is a proven non-winner; not Jerry Pate, who has all the talent but lacks the deeper intelligence consistently to apply it; but the portly Walrus with his enormous long arms, that droopy moustache, and a temper whose fuse is as short as his strong, stubby legs.

No romantic figure, this—but a champion of the people—one of us, as it were. Now if the handsome Seve Ballesteros ever decides to devote all his energies and ability to the American tour it might be different. But one can hardly blame the Spaniard for opting for easier pickings in Europe and elsewhere.

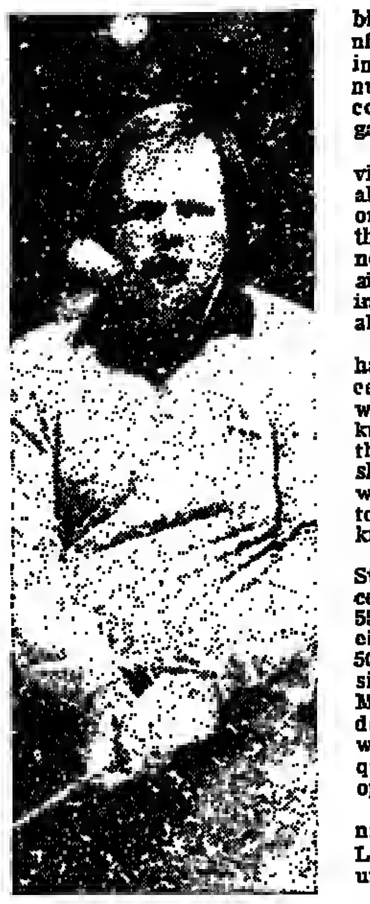
Every week I watch Stadler I become more and more impressed. There is not a single weakness in his awesomely strong game. He is as long as he needs to be with woods and irons and increasingly accurate to boot. He is arguably the best putter of all—he leads the statistical table in that department—as he also does for having scored the most birdies this season.

His touch around the greens and from bunkers is as remarkably velvet smooth as is that of so many big men. At nearly 16 stones, he hardly sways around in the breeze.

Stadler is 28. His pedigree is flawless. Brought up through the junior programme in sunny San Diego, where he took up the game at the age of six, he won the World Junior Championship in 1971 and the U.S. Amateur Championship at the Inverness club in Toledo, Ohio, in 1973. He and George Burns won both their foursomes matches in the 1975 Walker Cup match at St. Andrews and Stadler his only single on that disastrous second afternoon for the home team. Incidentally, team mate Pate was beaten in both foursomes and his two singles.

Since turning professional soon afterwards Stadler has increased his earnings every year, finishing 66th on the money list with $42,949 in 1977 and 48th in 1978 when he won the Magnolia Classic played concurrently with the Masters. He was 55th in 1979 when he shared the lead at the Masters after 36 holes, and in the past two years he has twice finished eighth on the money list by winning over $200,000 each season, and won three tournaments.

Last week in the Tournament of Champions at Rancho La Costa, just north of San Diego, he overcame the inevitable reaction suffered after his nerve-wracking and emotionally draining Masters triumph, and finished with a blistering round of 64 that took his earnings already this year past his 1981 total of $218,829.



Stadler . . . a class above the college clones

But it is his growing mental toughness that will eventually put him in a class above his rivals. His appearance and waddling gait are so very different from the handsome blonde clones that are spewed off the collegiate conveyor belt in ever increasing, depressing numbers. In short, Stadler is a considerable character—and the game desperately needs them.

Of course, Stadler still has a villainous temper but it is always directed at himself—and only on the golf course—and there are few players who do not really enjoy playing alongside him. In any case his incendiary outbursts are over almost before they have begun.

Stadler is slowly but surely harnessing this anger as success begets success. As he says with such attractive candour: "I know that every time I go out there and play badly I can still shoot 70. If I'm playing well it will be 64 or 65. It's easier not to get mad at myself with this knowledge."

A last afterthought on Stadler's Masters victory concerns Augusta's four par-5s, the 555 yards second, the 535 yards eighth, the 465 yards 13th and 500 yards 15th holes. It is considered mandatory for a Masters winner completely to dominate these four holes, which obviously present as a quartet the easiest birdie opportunities.

Ray Floyd was a record 14 under par in his 1976 triumph. Last year Watson was nine under for the par 5s.

But Stadler won despite his play at this quartet, at which he was a total of one over par. He recorded but two birdies both at the second hole, but these were offset by a seven there in his crucial round of 67.

The holes at which he can be said to have laid the foundation of victory were the 180 yards sixth, the 435 yards ninth, and the 485 yards 10th which despite its length is played so steeply downhill it carries a par of four. At these really treacherous holes Stadler was an amazing seven under par. In the words of the late Henry Longhurst: "And there you have it."

Squiggles and dots . . . and the growth of Islam

COINS

JAMES MACKAY

IN RECENT years a regular feature of the auction calendar has been *Sotheby's sales* of Islamic coins. The fact that a major auction house can put together sufficient material of a relatively specialised nature to fill a sale of such magnitude as to attract the leading international dealers, every few months, is indicative of the vast potential of Islamic coinage.

Significantly also, these sales attract a high proportion of private buyers and one suspects that much of the trade bidding is on behalf of clients in the Near and Middle East. Consequently, this is one area of numismatics where the market continues to harden, though it still has a considerable amount of leeway to make up.

Islamic coins have been around now for 1,400 years and have been struck as far afield as Seville and Sinkiang. The overwhelming majority of them, following the teachings of Mohammed who forbade the making of images, do not have any figured motif, far less the portraits of rulers.

Instead, great attention was paid to ornamenting the Arabic inscriptions which often included quotations from the Koran. To the layman Islamic coins often seem *monotonous with their endless lines of* Arabic, a bewildering jumble of squiggles and dots. Great ingenuity was shown in laying out the inscriptions, however, so that the lettering, especially the ornate Cufic script, took on a beauty of its own. Ignorance of Arabic has always been the main stumbling block to an understanding and appreciation of these coins and explains why the market in them has lagged so far behind all other fields. Now that the Arabs themselves are showing an interest in their cultural heritage, of which numismatics played so notable a part, the market is rising steadily, but there is still a great deal of scope for the Occidental collector willing to take a little time and trouble to master the intricacies of Arabic script.

This is not at all as difficult as it might appear and the would-be student is fortunate in that Seaby's have recently produced a second edition of Richard Plant's excellent book Arabic Coins and how to Read them (£4.50) which is available from most coin dealers or direct from the publishers, B. A. Seaby Ltd., Audley House, 11 Margaret Street, London W1N 8AT. Armed with this well-illustrated guide, the collector will have no difficulty in locating key-words in the inscriptions and their translations.

What Arab coins may have lacked pictorially they amply compensated for in the wealth of precise detail contained in their inscriptions. Long before European coinage began including dates, or even sequence of mint-marks which could be dated more or less to the year of issue, Arab coins were giving the date in the Moslem calendar *Anno Hegirae* (ie, from the flight of Mohammed from Mecca in 619 AD) and since Arabic numerals are very easy to read, dating them is seldom a problem. Not only are the names of rulers invariably given in full, but the names of provincial governors, officials and magistrates, *where* relevant, are included with the names of their districts.

Sotheby's sale of Islamic coins next Wednesday runs to over 500 lots and commences with a silver drachma struck by the rebel Al-Katari ibn al-Fuja'a in A.H. 75 (694 AD). Although described as "good fine and rare" this coin has an estimate of only £30-£50. An Anglo-Saxon sceat of the same period would rate 5-15 times as much, even for run-of-the-mill material, while a coin of similar quality and rarity would be worth considerably more.

The Arabs used the coins of neighbouring countries until the middle of the 7th century when Caliph Abd al-Malik introduced a coinage based on the gold dinar (denarius), the silver dirhem (drachma) and the bronze fils (follis). To this day fila and dinars are used by many Arab countries and dirhems are used by modern Morocco. The early coinage of the Omayyad rulers, beginning with Abd al-Malik, have long been fashionable because they represented the earliest of Islamic coins and consequently the level of prices is much higher. Even so, the fine range of gold dinars in the Sotheby *sale, from* the *first* century of the Omayyad regime, average £150-£200 each, while the very much rarer gold half-dinars rate £500-£600.

As the reforming zeal of the Caliphate waned, and the Arab empire disintegrated into petty kingdoms, the range of coinage became exceedingly diverse while keeping within the framework laid down by Abd al-Malik. Something of this diversity can be seen in the sale which includes dinars of the Abbasids, the Tulunids of Egypt, the Abbadids of Seville, the Aghlabids, the Almoravids of Spain and North Africa, the Fatimids, the Hamdanids of Mosul, the Buyids of Iraq, the Seljuqs of Rum, the Marinids of Morocco, the Nasrids of Grenada and the Kakwayhids of Kurdistan.

There is a very fine and rare example of a Crusading dinar of Acre of the mid-13th century inscribed in Arabic "struck at Acre in the year 125—of the incarnation of the Messiah," and yet it is estimated at a mere £600-£800—very much less than comparable gold coins from the medieval kingdoms of north-western Europe. The sale ends with some of the exceedingly rare coins of Sultan Qabus of Oman issued within the past decade.

Togetherness and Greenwood

SOCCER

TREVOR BAILEY

RON GREENWOOD's squad of 22 for the match against Wales at Cardiff on Tuesday must be much the same as he will use in the World Cup. There are only three further soccer internationals, against Scotland, Holland and Finland, before England go to Spain.

An examination of the chosen group suggests that they should beat Wales but lack the class and the cohesion required to succeed at the highest level.

The most impressive feature of the squad is the three goalkeepers, Clemence, Shilton and Corrigan. Not only are all three good enough to be first choice for most countries, but if all three were injured there are a number of high-quality replacements, including Rimmer, who is surely keeping better than he has ever done, and Parkes.

The same wealth of talent cannot be said to apply to centre-backs. This is underlined by picking Butcher, who has only played two games for Ipswich since injuring his nose so badly last January that he was in hospital for more than a month and has still to establish himself in international football.

Although Thompson is a talented player with a well-developed positional sense, he is at his most effective when he has a tall, powerfully-built partner. It is a pity that the former England centre-half, Watson, is not a few years younger, as the present choice, Foster, is still only in the "highly-promising" category.

The four full backs have one thing in common. All excel at going forward into attack. This is hardly surprising as the majority of clubs in the First Division use only two forwards so that full backs have plenty of opportunities to move on to the offensive.

Here the similarity between the quartet ends. Neal and Mills are uncompromising tacklers and experienced campaigners, especially adept at taking up good attacking central positions.

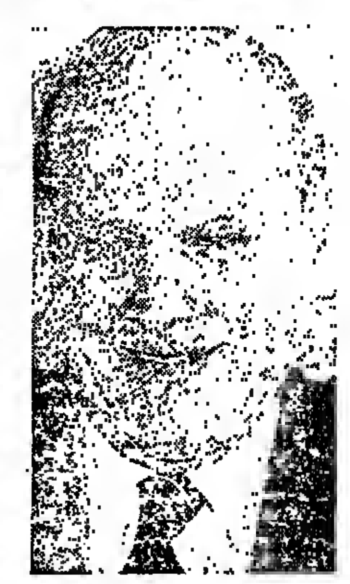
Although they have the tactical knowledge, do they still possess the pace necessary to cope with the fast, clever raiders who will be in Spain? Their rivals, Anderson and Sansom, have youth on their side. Anderson is fast, leggy, crosses the ball well from the right wing and can score goals with both his feet and his head. Sansom has the skill to dribble past defenders and is nippy, mobile and chunky.

Other assets include a skilful left foot and a long throw-in. Both are occasionally prone to lapses of concentration, something which no defender can afford at the highest level.

In midfield there is no shortage of talent. Robson is the most complete footballer in the team and the elegant Hoddle has frequently looked world class with Tottenham Hotspur this season. Although Brooking and McDermott may possibly just be past their peak, Brooking still has the ability and the imagination to create openings and McDermott is dangerous with his darting runs off the ball, something which is understandably recognised more by his Liverpool colleagues than England.

Wilkins has a *football* brain and is an expert at providing precise passes, which was why he was able to take on the unfamiliar role of sweeper, or deep lying half-back in the last international so successfully. It will be interesting to see if he is used in that capacity against Wales.

Up front, Ron Greenwood is covered for whatever system he eventually decides to employ. He has two old-style centre-



Greenwood: his men should beat Wales, but . . .

forwards, Withe and Regis. The Aston Villa leader is outstanding in the air, whether heading at goal or laying one off for a team-mate, while Regis is at his best when he can run at an opposing defence. In contrast he also has two gifted front-runners in Francis and Woodcock, who may have the skill needed to prize open the tight defences which will be encountered in Spain.

Places for a left- and right-winger have also been found in the squad, but it is most unlikely that Morley and Coppell will be included, unless they are used on the respective flanks of a midfield quartet. Coppell, anyway, has been forced to withdraw through injury.

Finally, there is the irrepressible Keegan, who has been enjoying a wonderful season and has been consistently scoring, which is important because it provides the confidence to shoot rather than pass.

He would claim a place in any of the World Cup teams, as he is fast, clever and brave, a maker and taker of goals, and an inspiration to the other players, provided he does not try to do too much and loses his edge.

But there are four reasons why I do not fancy England's chances in the World Cup (I would dearly love to be proved wrong). The defence appears suspect, there are not enough outstanding players, and vital club games will make it hard for Tottenham, Liverpool and Ipswich players to raise their game.

Finally, Ron Greenwood has experimented widely, but still does not appear to have decided on the formation which is most suitable for his players and which they all fully understand. This suggests that we could be short of that vital ingredient, team cohesion.

SPORTS DIARY

RACING: Today: Whitbread Gold Cup (Sandown); Flat meetings at Beverley and Leicester, mixed Flat and National Hunt meeting at Sandown; National Hunt meetings at Kelso, Bangor-on-Dee and Market Rasen. Thursday, The 1,000 Guineas (Newmarket); Friday, Jockey Club Stakes (Newmarket).

CRICKET: Brighton Indoor Championship, today and tomorrow.

SOCCER: Wales v England (Swansea), Tuesday; Northern Ireland v Scotland, Wednesday.

TENNIS: British Hard Court Championships, Bournemouth, ending today.

SQUASH: Banbury Finals, Cardiff, today and tomorrow.

SNOOKER: Embassy World Professional Championships, Sheffield, Friday until May 16.

SAILING: European Spring Championships, Alassio, today and tomorrow.

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Wars and other uncertainties

THE FINANCIAL markets are rather good at brinkmanship. Exercising a form of rational expectation which does not appear in the theory books, they expect people in the last resort to behave rationally. Crises will loom, but on the whole they will fade. As uncertainty rises, dealing margins widen, and there is less trade, but that is about all. The behaviour of markets in general, and the gold price in particular, says that investors do not see Armageddon in the South Atlantic—nor in an altogether likelier spot, the Lebanese front. Some nasty skirmishes have been discounted; but afterwards, the markets expect the world to look very much the same.

This may look like a hopeful message, but on closer inspection a more cynical message comes through. After all, if the Falklands crisis and the possibility of a new—though limited—Middle East war have not noticeably darkened the investment picture, it must have been pretty unattractive to start with, and that unpleasant fact is worth remembering at the moment.

The one bull market which has developed in the last few days is in forecasts of what might be called the "If only . . ." school. The underlying news is good; inflation is coming down, public sector borrowing is under control, and if only we did not have these crises, or even just the Falklands crisis. . . .

Coherent policy

This is a faulty analysis in two senses. First, it is trying to count the same good news twice. Good news on inflation and fiscal policy has been expected since the Budget. It was already discounted in the pre-Falklands markets.

Secondly, it rests on a out-of-date form of analysis. For a long time it was true that the market was waiting for a coherent policy against inflation. High interest rates and poor equity values simply represented an attempt to discount the ravages of expected inflation, and it was sensible to talk as if the bond market was a kind of perpetual financial opinion poll about expected inflation rates.

However, that ceased to be true many months ago. The downward trend of inflation in this country has been perfectly clear for well over a year; in the U.S. the reversal has been more recent, but more dramatic. However, the markets have not responded, except in the most subdued fashion; hence what has been widely discussed as the abnormal rise in real interest rates.

Real-interest-rate watchers are no doubt waiting eagerly for a resumption of more normal yields, and so far as government bonds are concerned, their patience will no doubt be rewarded in due course. As far as the more general picture of market commercial rates is concerned, though, the whole discussion of real interest rates is an irrelevant distraction.

In the UK, after all, we do now know the real interest rates expected by the market, at any rate for the long term; they are the real yield of 2½ per cent or so indexed gilts. If we also believe the official inflation forecasts, which look steadily more credible, money interest rates should be falling rapidly into single figures, and U.S. rates should already be there, comfortably. They are not.

World scene

The missing factor, of course, is uncertainty. Markets may well now be setting a lower inflation premium, but they are setting a higher risk premium. One risk we have discussed at length in the last two weeks: the risk of financial failures which is always attendant on disinflation.

However, there are other problems—which bring us to the third fault in the "If only ..." analysis. It is far too parochial. Our own troubles in the South Atlantic—not to mention the perennial disputes with nurses and dockers—are not really very important on the world scene.

Even if General Galtieri had never embarked on his silly enterprise, and if Mr Begin had shown more consideration for his distinguished American guest, there would be large uncertainties to digest. President Reagan and his Congressional critics are indulging in brinkmanship over U.S. budget policy, to the intense disquiet of Wall Street. Political and policy arguments make it increasingly hard to chart the future course of Italy, France and West Germany.

On the commercial front, the oil market also now appears to be the scene of a potentially unsettling power struggle. Opec has proved more cohesive than expected, and cut production sharply; it can no longer be assumed that the price will fall

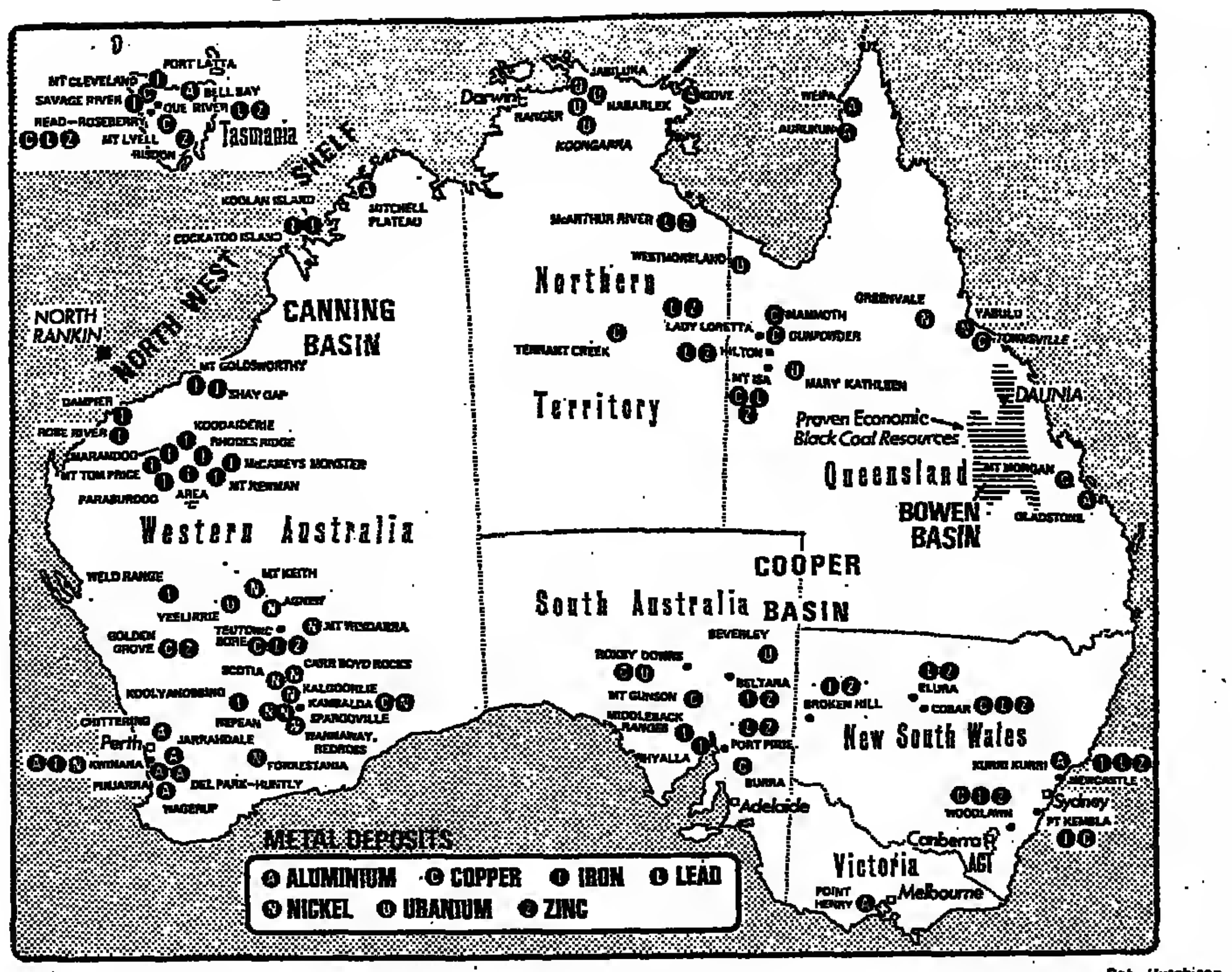
Long list

In sum, there is plenty to preoccupy markets apart from threats of war and default. To be sure, the news is not all bad. The IMF agreement with Romania may have removed one defaulter from the danger list. At home, the error in forecasting the PSBR helps to explain the high level of private sector borrowing—the squeeze was unintentionally tight; so borrowing may subside to more normal levels. We do in the end tend to muddle through, as the placid performance of markets suggests. But there is rather a long list of "If onlys . . ." to get through before we can expect a turn from wariness to confident celebration.

AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The boom begins to fade

By Adrian Dicks, recently in Australia



Bob Hutchison

RECESSION has been slow getting to Australia. Even now that it has arrived (by common consent among Australian economists), it looks distinctly less alarming than in Europe or the U.S.

The economy is still expected to grow by about 2 per cent this year, according to policy makers in Canberra. Real investment, which in each of the past two years increased by a staggering 25-30 per cent, has slowed down in recent months, but is still likely to rise at least 10 per cent this year.

In spite of indications of robust expansion, many Australians have become convinced in recent weeks that a boom era is fading fast. Nowhere is this more apparent than in what is loosely known as the resources sector — Australia's enormous metal mining and processing industries and huge energy developments in coal, oil and natural gas. Earlier this month, for example, the Department of Industry and Commerce issued figures showing that the value of mining and manufacturing projects at the final planning stage had fallen from A$35.5bn (£21.1bn) at the end of last June to A$32.8bn at the end of December.

In addition to the evidence of the official statistics, the Australian public has seen for itself the steady slide in the stock market in recent months, in which mining shares have performed especially badly (though there were signs of a modest rally late last week). Earnings of the major mining houses, heavily influenced by depressed world prices for base metals and gold have been almost uniformly bad, while this spring's difficult price negotiations between Australian iron ore and coking coal exporters with their most important customers, the Japanese steel companies, saw settlements at prices well below what the Australians claimed they needed to show an acceptable return on investment.

Not least, Woodside Petroleum, the linchpin in the biggest and most ambitious of all Australia's current development projects, the North West Shelf natural gas scheme, announced in early March that delays in concluding firm sales contracts with its Japanese customers had made it necessary to postpone the second—and more expensive—phase of the project by a year.

The resources industries have also had to contend with transport bottlenecks and with strikes, such as those at the New South Wales coal-loading terminals which have kept some vessels waiting offshore for months on end. Overall wage increases in 1982 are expected by both official and private forecasters to accelerate to about 14-15 per cent, yet trade union claims which are pending in some mining and metal processing companies are nearly double that figure. On the North West Shelf project, construction wage costs in some areas have risen 70 per cent above estimates.

Mining executives and bankers, as well as some influential figures in Canberra's corridors of power, are inclined to point an accusing finger at Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, for whipping up public expectations of a boom in the wake of his coalition government's re-election two years ago. The voters have already dealt the Liberal Party stinging rebuffs in a recent federal by-election in Sydney and in the State elections in Victoria, which the party lost for the first time in nearly three decades.

Yet Mr Fraser was far from being alone, or even particularly controversial, in pointing a year or two ago to the surge of interest in investing in Australia's natural resources. Most Australian economists trace its origin no further back than the 1979 round of price increases by oil exporting countries, and to the rekindled enthusiasm of major consumer countries, notably Japan, for alternative energy sources.

By simply totting up the rough totals of all the potential new coal mines, oil and gas fields, pipelines, aluminium smelters and other projects—many of them in practice mutually exclusive—one could easily reach astronomical estimates of the sums of money that might be spent at some future time on exploiting all the country's known resources.

The Australian Industrial Development Association forecast in August 1980 that as much as A$60bn might be spent on resource development in the 1980s—a figure that covered energy and alumina-aluminium but excluded most other metal mining and processing. Some forecasters arrived at figures as high as A$80bn.

Such numbers now seem wildly over optimistic. Yet scaling them down does not mean that the large volume of projects under development already will not be carried out.

Mr Bernie Fraser, director of the National Energy Office, believes that even the Department of Industry and Commerce's totals of projects at final planning stage may greatly overstate what will actually be carried out. "The boom has not come to an end, but it has been trimmed back to much more realistic levels of expectation."

Mr Victor Martin, managing director of the Commercial Banking Corporation of Sydney, says that from a lender's point of view "there has been some deferment of projects, but there are others which have to continue. They still need money. The euphoria of a year ago has gone but one can still be optimistic about investment opportunities in resources in the longer term."

Mr Bill Hunter, finance director of Broken Hill Proprietary, says it was "common sense that the market would bring things back to reality. Even when they do, there should still be pretty strong growth."

Several factors seem to have brought about the shake-out that has been taking place among big resources projects. First, the deepening recession in most industrial countries, accompanied by falling commodity prices, has provided a depressing background against which to take major investment decisions—albeit on mines or processing plants that would not come on stream for several years. Moreover, money is dear.

Perhaps most important of all, changing assumptions about the cost of oil and the pattern of energy use, especially in Japan, could turn the assumptions underlying many Australian energy projects on their head. Mr John Thom of Citicorp's Sydney merchant banking operation, says: "Australia hasn't come to terms with the oil price fall. What it means is that some of the coal projects may no longer be viable. The common assumption in project financing has been a constant oil price."

> 'Less confident than a few years ago of finding markets for their products'

Sound projects, like the A$1.3bn Cooper Basin gas liquids scheme in South Australia, are going ahead. The immediate casualties of the recent decline in oil prices appear to be the big synthetic fuel projects. Rundle, the Queensland oil shale development in which Exxon has had an interest, is bluntly described by one leading Sydney investment expert as "a dead duck." Mr Bernie Fraser at the National Energy Office says it has been "pushed even further down the track" to a starting-up date no earlier than 2,000. Coal liquefaction, both from hard and brown coal deposits, appears to be a similar position, although work has begun on a A$200m pilot plant in Victoria, largely Japanese financed. The Australian Government is keen to see research and development work on alternative energy sources maintained, and is devoting money to it.

Aluminium smelting, in which there has been heavy over investment, is another area where project cancellations or postponements have been expected. Last Friday, BHP abandoned its A$600m smelter planned at Lochinvar in New South Wales.

Many Australian mining companies are far less confident than they were a few years ago of finding markets for their products. Among a host of potential new coal projects, Daunia in central Queensland's rich Bowen Basin is among the most promising. Its promoter is Utah Development Company, a subsidiary of General Electric, which is now Australia's biggest, and probably its most profitable, coal exporter.

Daunia is part of a rich deposit where steaming coal (to which Utah has no rights) and coking coal are found on top of one another. Mr John Wruck, Utah's senior vice president and treasurer, says the company would have no difficulty financing the project's estimated A$550m cost out of cash flow, but he stresses that there is a slowing down in streaming coal markets. "We cannot develop a new mine unless substantial tonnage is committed in advance on a long-term contract basis. You cannot develop mines without markets."

Japanese customers, on the other hand, are increasingly loath to be locked into long-term deals. In place of the 12-14 year sales contracts which Utah and its partners in Central Queensland Coal Associates used to finance the first mines in the Bowen Basin a decade ago, Japanese buyers of both coking and steaming coals are unwilling to sign renewals for periods longer than two years.

Mr Wruck believes the situation might improve by the mid-1980s, yet recent official Japanese energy forecasts suggest that demand for steam coal is likely to reach a peak by 1990, flattening out thereafter. Demand for coking coal is not expected to improve any sooner than the prospects for the deeply troubled world steel industry.

Iron ore has shown a similar pattern, with the tonnages sold to Japan from the mature Hamersley and Newman projects in the Pilbara region of Western Australia far below original forecasts or current capacity. In the price negotiations which ended in Tokyo earlier this month, the producers succeeded in offsetting only partially the heavy financial consequences of delivering well below the quantities originally planned for.

North West Shelf natural gas, of which a relatively small proportion will be piped to Perth while the remainder is liquefied and shipped to Japan, is also finding difficulty in securing contracts for quantities large enough to make the probable overall cost of A$8bn (£4.7bn) profitable for its backers. The utility customers have had to scale back their needs.

Australians are often inclined to take a bitter view of their Japanese customers. Privately, a few mining men call them "the enemy." Both coal and iron ore producers feel they have been weakened in negotiations with a united Japanese front of consumers as a result of being divided, as well as being pitted against rivals from other countries. Some go further and accuse Japanese policy of having deliberately encouraged over-capacity in Australia so as to beat prices down.

Australians are also worried by what many see as the erosion of competitiveness that could cost the country market share. Besides strikes and shipping bottlenecks, the resources industries have also felt a heavy burden of tax and royalty payments, which according to the Australian Mining Industry Council rose to 60 per cent of operating income in 1980-81 from 55.9 per cent in 1979-80 for mining and exploration companies. In Utah's case the figure was over 70 per cent.

One step frequently urged by the industry on the Government is a sharp devaluation of the Australian dollar, though it has been gradually slipping anyway under the present "flexible peg" system. It remains to be seen whether the present coalition will be sufficiently unnerved by its recent reverses to try to stimulate the resources sector, or whether it will let Australia's most glamorous major industry feel the full force of the current recession.

Letters to the Editor

Exports

From Mr R. Ledingham

Sir,—Professor Thirlwall's call for tax incentives to encourage exporters, reported by Max Wilkinson (April 15) may harm rather than help the economy.

There is no difference between the economic effect of exporting and the economic effect of import substitutions and manufacturers should be encouraged to pursue their home or export markets to a degree that reflects solely the market's profitability.

If this is done we may avoid generalising the strange strategy of British Leyland whereby it heavily discounts the Metro in an attempt to sell it in Belgium. The discount used to sell one car in Belgium would almost certainly encourage the sale of two cars in Britain. Two cars not imported are better for the economy than one car exported.

Before we do more for exporters we should target imports for substitution and assist and encourage their local manufacture by British or foreign companies.

I would concede, that in a limited number of high technology industries an advantage is given by the economies of scale resulting from manufacturing units with capacity to supply world markets. Investment in such facilities already gives rise to major tax concessions and it is possible to argue that such investment in the UK would be more encouraged by stable exchange rates which would not expose capital intensive industries to massive losses of revenue or erosion of competitive position when the pound is strengthened to achieve the short term political goal of reduced inflation.

Assuming that tax concessions granted to exporters are acceptable within GATT and EEC rules, they will have to be paid for. If they are paid by increasing the tax burden on non-exporters, there will be a weakening of British industries' ability to compete against imports, offsetting any possible benefit.

R. A. Ledingham.
6 Hordwick Road,
Hethe, Nr. Bicester,
Oxon.

Trustees

From the Chairman,
British Legal Association

Sir,—The banker that Rosemary Burr quoted (April 3) really ought to bring himself up to date. Solicitors are not permitted to charge on an ad valorem scale at all let alone for conveyancing. The banks, however, still continue to overcharge the public.

I have recently seen the accounts of an estate valued at under £35,000 (a house worth £25,000, two insurance policies and some savings). The solicitor charged £34.50 to transfer the house to the widow and some £86 to obtain grant of probate. The bank charged—in addition—£2,020.98 including VAT.

Solicitors' charges are open to examination by the Law Society or by the Court—the individual has no appeal against the banks. I hope this meets Rosemary Burr's challenge.

Stanley Best.
British Legal Association,
29 Church Road,
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Councillors

From Mr D. Franklin.

Sir,—"Advertising: a local government weapon" (April 15) highlights the absurd way in which ratepayers' money is being spent. Less than 19 per cent of monies spent by elected councillors is provided by the voters in their boroughs and those who contribute most are helpless to control the councils' spending.

The rights of elected councillors to determine their own affairs are based on the assumption that councillors are accountable to the people who contribute towards their spending. Under our system this does not happen and consequently the competence of elected councillors cannot be tested or questioned.

In 1979 the district auditor of the accounts to the Borough of Lambeth drew attention to the serious situation of the rent arrears which were then £2.4m and today they are above the £5m level. Rates have risen 179 per cent since the present council took control but as voters only contribute 6.18 per cent of the monies spent by elected councillors they will display the apathy typical of council elections.

For councillors to spend money on advertisements is rather like highwaymen using their victims' money to promote advertisements exalting the virtues of their trade.

D. G. Franklin,
121 Kennington Road, SE11.

Lloyd's

From Mr N. Parker

Sir, — Mr Comery's letter (April 16) about the Lloyd's Bill ends with the words, "and remove the divisive feature in the present Bill whereby working names have eight times the voting power of external names."

I am petitioning against the entire principle of classification of members into working and external names, and not merely on the issue of voting rights. While it is true that de-classification would automatically result in equal voting rights by virtue of a single electorate, the number of council or committee places occupied by those who work in the market matters little so long as there is no legal difference between us.

N. Parker.
56 Curzon Street, W1

Colonialism

From Mr M Mitchell

Sir,—President Galtieri declares that Argentina is committed to ending "one of the last chapters of the colonial history of the Continent." Is this not rather a curious argument when the Argentine claim is based upon the confines of the former Spanish Empire? It is also interesting to note that an earlier statement contained words to the effect that his patience was exhausted — a phrase familiar to those who recollect the 1930s.

M. R. S. Mitchell.
The Old House, Aldham,
Near Colchester, Essex

Armaments

From Professor A. Diem

Sir,—The implications of the article, "New Delhi to buy 40 Mirages," are appalling. According to Indian government officials, ". . . the deal will not unduly burden the country's foreign exchange reserves and so will not affect the economic restructuring plan which is backed by a three-year $5.7bn loan from the International Monetary Fund."

What this statement really means is that the IMF is in effect unwittingly subsidising India's purchase of arms. I for one am disgusted by the mindlessness of the arms race. And I am even more concerned that money loaned for economic development frees the Indian leaders to buy sophisticated fighter aircraft that have been designed for destructive purposes.

(Professor) Aubrey Diem,
University of Waterloo,
Waterloo,
Ontario,
Canada.

Inequitable

From the Director
Aims of Industry

Sir,—Any agreement to the United Nations' Law of the Sea Convention will have immense economic influence on the last decade of the century. It has been strange, therefore, that there has been so little discussion on the subject. David Tonge's authoritative article (April 20) does something to rectify that.

Mr Tonge has set out the issues so well that at first sight it seems unchivalrous to make any criticisms. But it is necessary to expand his statement that the industrial nations have "criticised the subsequent concessions made to the Third World" and that "the Soviet Union has supported the position taken by most Third World states and has been a vehement critic of what it sees as the Reagan Administration's reversal of the previous U.S. position."

In fact, current American arguments are concerned with the fact that voting for the 36 members of the council is deliberately pre-conditioned in favour of the Eastern (Socialist) European Region as well as the developing countries. The voting formula referred to "an equitable geographical distribution of seats" and defined this as meaning that each region should have at least one member and that the regions would be Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe (Socialist), Latin America and Western Europe. No mention of the United States, Australia, Canada and Britain!

The proposals on technology would have meant that we should not have merely voted to hand over our secrets to the Soviet Union, but also train our competitors against us.

The Soviet Union is, of course, quite right in seeing the Reagan Administration as reversing the previous U.S. position. President Carter's Administration was incredibly oblivious of the dangers of the proposals. It is a blessing that the present U.S. administration has woken up in time.

Michael Ivens.
40 Doughty Street, WC1.

Stubs

From Mr D. Richords

Sir,—I was interested to read the article of April 10 in regard to Lloyds Bank "new design" stubless cheque books.

My impression of this article was one of Lloyds Bank declaring something advanced in regard to cheque books and being first in the field of clearing banks in foisting this upon the customer, albeit following the bank's consumer research.

My wife and I have been current account holders with National Girobank since the early days and have found that their stubless cheque books are very convenient to use and slim to keep in pocket and handbag. Recordings of cheques issued are entered in the appropriate place at the front of the cheque book.

I feel that the National Girobank, with their complete banking services, competing with the established High Street Banks (although National Girobank is now an established High Street Bank) have for many years held their light under a bushel in not drawing attention to their services, an easy, cheap banking arrangement to the public at large.

D. G. B. Richards.
14 Lakelands Close,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Heartless

From Mr M. Pickering.

Sir,—I write to question whether you should have accepted Hewlett-Packard's advertisement (April 15) or at least have referred to the Advertising Standards Authority, since it depicts a gentleman slipping a slimline calculator into his inside right-hand pocket, with the caption "close to a businessman's heart."

We already know from your front page article about the $1 button "I'm backing Britain," now selling well in the U.S.A., that American hearts are not so misplaced, and feel that the advertisement would only have been credible if these calculators had been Soviet-made.

M. F. C. Pickering.
317 Archer Road,
Stevenage, Herts.

As pension fund managers meet in Bournemouth, **Barry Riley** looks at how well they perform

Problems in making the most of £70bn

BRITAIN'S occupational pension schemes are increasingly vast and powerful, controlling assets which may well be in excess of £70bn. Is this wealth being wisely managed, whether for the benefit of the nation as a whole or, more narrowly, in terms of the interests of scheme members?

In the latter part of this week, the members of the National Association of Pension Funds have been gathering for their 1982 annual conference in Bournemouth. They may reflect upon a fact which emerged from the recently published NAPF seventh annual survey—that the average pension paid out in 1980 to the 2.7m pensioners in schemes affiliated to the NAPF was just under £14 a week.

This sum was only about half as large as the state retirement pension for a single person. And while the comparison is not entirely fair—some retired people may be entitled to two or more separate pensions from different employers, and the pension schemes also paid out substantial lump sum benefits to members on retirement — such figures pose the question of whether the pensions movement is really serving its purpose of delivering decent and secure pensions to scheme members.

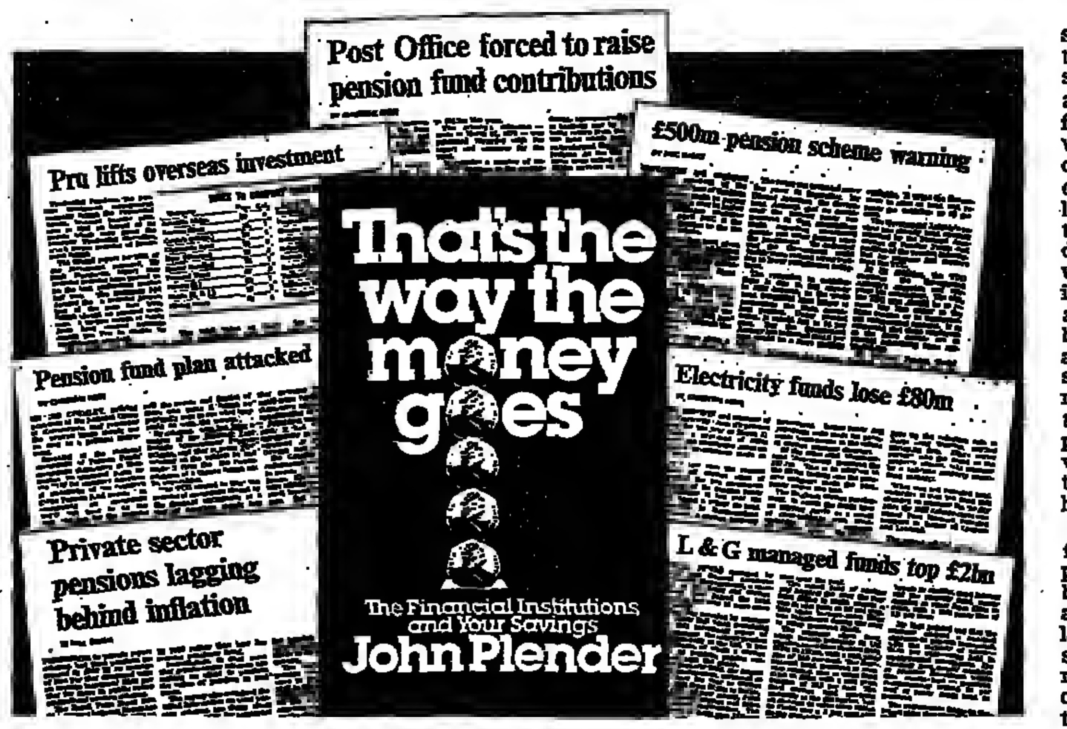
Coinciding with the Bournemouth conference, Britain's investment institutions have come under keen scrutiny in a hard-hitting new book* by John Plender, a former financial editor of the Economist, who has devoted immense efforts to uncovering some of the less palatable activities of the publicity-shy fund managers.

Among the characters who populate the pages of Plender's highly readable book are a smooth ex-journalist with a ballerina wife who charmed fund managers into many unfortunate investments, an ICI pension fund manager who—albeit in apparent good faith—had business associations with such financiers as Mr Judah Binstock and Sir Eric Miller, and two electricity pension fund managers who agreed to pay the property developer, Mr Boris Marmor more than £2m for shares in a company which subsequently proved hopelessly insolvent.

The pension scheme bosses at Bournemouth will not wish to be reminded of the misadventures of these and others of their colleagues. And indeed, it must be said that most pension schemes have been, and are being, operated with great probity and caution. Plender's book is more of a history of the mistakes of the 1970s than a guide to the challenges of the 1980s. Yet there is no room for complacency, and it is worth going back a decade or more to trace the reasons for the traumatic experience of a number of pension funds.

Funded pension schemes are based upon the proposition that the contributions of employees and employers should be piled up in secure investments so that eventually, on retirement, the employees can be paid a pension, or other benefits, based upon final salary. It is normally assumed that the investments will produce a total return of 3 or 4 per cent over and above the rate of inflation.

But in the early 1970s the real rate of return sagged alarmingly, while wages soared. Fund managers looked around with increasing desperation for inflation-proof investments. Property provided one answer, but by 1973 prices were alarmingly high. Thus, some institutions were tempted to put heavy financial backing behind British property developers who ventured into the seemingly cheaper and less exploited continental European property markets. Other fund managers dabbled with "real" assets such as old master paintings or gold bullion.



But the British developers ran into trouble in France, Holland and Germany, just as the property scene headed for its inevitable crash in the UK. For pension funds which simply bought developed property the crisis was not such a problem; in due course they were able to start buying again at much more favourable prices. But pension schemes like those of Unilever, the Post Office and ICI, which had become involved in the finance of uncompleted developments, in some cases lost heavily.

In the midst of all this, it emerged that standards of ethics and supervision in the pension funds had not always been exemplary. At ICI, for instance, the investment manager Mr Norman Freeman, and his deputy Mr William Dobbie, had been running a private dealing company at the same time.

An indirect shareholder in this company, Plender suggests, may well have been Mr Judah Binstock — nowadays a fugitive from British justice. Mr Freeman was also a shareholder in a Portuguese hotel company partly owned by Peachey Property — whose chairman Sir Eric Miller was later to commit suicide when his company was investigated by the Department of Trade. Mr Freeman retired in 1974 to the South of France.

From 1975 onwards, pension fund investments fared much better. Equities recovered sharply in price, and the property market stabilised.

Old problems, however, took a long time to clear up. As recently as March 1980 two investment managers at the Electricity industry fund, Mr Alan Urwin and Mr Bill Lund, were suspended during a fraud squad inquiry. They were cleared of any impropriety, but retired.

Plender is sympathetic to Mr Urwin and Mr Lund. Perhaps their judgment was not as good as it ought to have been—especially in their failure to take outside advice on matters like the dealings with Mr Marmor. But Mr Urwin had been brought in during 1974 to clear up a mess which was not of his own making.

The scandals have raised serious and fundamental questions about the control of pension schemes, and their accountability to members. Pension funds operate within trust law which was drawn up for quite different purposes. There is no doubt that lessons have been learnt from past mistakes, and the NAPF has made efforts to develop a self-regulatory framework, for instance by formulating guidelines for pension fund accounts. The association has begun making "Golden Pen" awards for annual reports. But self-regulation is a slow process, meeting with opposition. Meantime, sums of many billions of pounds continue to be supervised by part-time, unpaid trustees with uncertain responsibilities.

At the same time, pension funds face external political pressures over their responsibilities to the national economy at large. The Wilson Committee largely cleared the financial institutions of the charge of ignoring important investment opportunities in British industry. But it did suggest that the big funds were neglecting the small-scale, entrepreneurial sectors of commerce and industry.

Hence the new vogue for small, unquoted investments. But it is intriguing that here the wheel threatens to turn full circle. Plender details the story of Charles Gordon, an elegant and charming financier, married to the ballerina Nadia Nerina, who operated in the late 1960s out of luxurious offices stuffed with expensive modern art.

Gordon's objective was precisely to attract institutional money into smaller, unquoted companies through a specialist vehicle which he set up called Spey Investments. The concept was laudable, and the salesmanship was skilful, but the investment performance was eventually dismal. It was an experience which fund managers were not to forget.

Now, in the early 1980s, fund managers face similar challenges. Many new intermediaries for investment in unquoted companies have been set up. Will they be more successful than Spey was? Many funds are nursing heavy losses on the money, admittedly only on a small scale, which they risked on the speculative oil and gas exploration vehicles which were being touted by London merchant banks and North American company promoters a year or two ago.

And within the past 12 months, large sums have been channelled abroad by pension fund managers, into investments such as equities in the Pacific Basin markets and property in the United States. Perhaps this is prudent international diversification. But the long-term relevance to the needs of British pensioners in the 21st century is not always clear.

This overseas shift in investment policy is, however, the consequence of changes in exchange controls rather than of poor investment returns at home. Most pension schemes have enjoyed good enough results in the past few years to build the strength of their funding to quite reassuring levels.

But it is a much less comfortable thought that a good deal of this strength has been built up at the expense of scheme members themselves. The wave of redundancies among industrial companies has allowed schemes to "profit" because they will no longer have to upgrade ex-employees' pensions.

When an employee leaves a company—whether voluntarily or compulsorily—it is normal to freeze his pension in relation to his pay on leaving, or at least to grant only very small increases.

Even if only a few years elapse before retirement, this can make his pension arrangements a quite extraordinarily bad deal for him.

And after his retirement, he is likely to find that he has very little protection against inflation unless he is in a public sector scheme. Only 1 per cent of private sector schemes guarantee to raise pensions in line with the Retail Prices Index, whereas 77 per cent of public sector schemes do so.

During the two years of relatively high inflation in 1979 and 1980 the real value of the income of the typical private pensioner fell by more than a tenth.

Members of Britain's occupational pension schemes in the private sector therefore, face great uncertainty about the purchasing power of the pensions they will eventually receive.

But there are more fundamental questions to be asked. To what end, Plender asks rhetorically, have the British people handed so much of their money to this powerful new financial estate of the investment institutions?

In the case of the pension funds, the answer must surely be that the funds are expected to deliver a reliable pension of two-thirds of final salary. That is what most of them claim to do. It is by their ability to achieve their promises that they will eventually be judged; on their current performance, the verdict threatens to be a harsh one.

* *That's the way the money goes, by John Plender. Andre Deutsch. £8.95.*

Weekend Brief

Desk-bound City men jog for Marathon

This time last year, Roger Gibbs, 47, chairman of Gerrard and National, the discount house, weighed 15 stone and had never run more than a couple of miles in his life. Now he is down to 12 stone 12 pounds and he can, if pushed, get slowly from A to B even if there are 18 miles between them. In fact in two weeks time Mr Gibbs is determined to run 26 miles, 385 yards in under five hours. He is particularly determined because £50 depends on his doing so.

Mr Gibbs is one of the many thousands who will be running for charity in the Gillette London Marathon on Sunday May 9. Of the 18,000 people taking part in the run, the organisers estimate that the majority are being sponsored for one good cause or another, and that all told the various charities represented will receive about £3m as a result.

Some competitors, such as sports people, need little training. This is far from the case for entrants like Roger Gibbs and dozens of other normally desk-bound City business people. For weeks they have been transformed at night into sweating joggers, panting around the parks in an effort to turn themselves into marathon runners.

Mr Gibbs says he is only doing it to underline his commitment to raising the £380,000 so urgently needed by Guy's Hospital, of whose Scanner Appeal he is chairman. He has been promised £50,000 of this by different sponsors if he completes the run, and an extra £1,000 if he beats all the women taking part. He does not think he will get this particular thousand. On the likelihood of receiving another thousand, promised if he marries one of the women participants within the next six months, bachelor Mr Gibbs said he had "no comment."

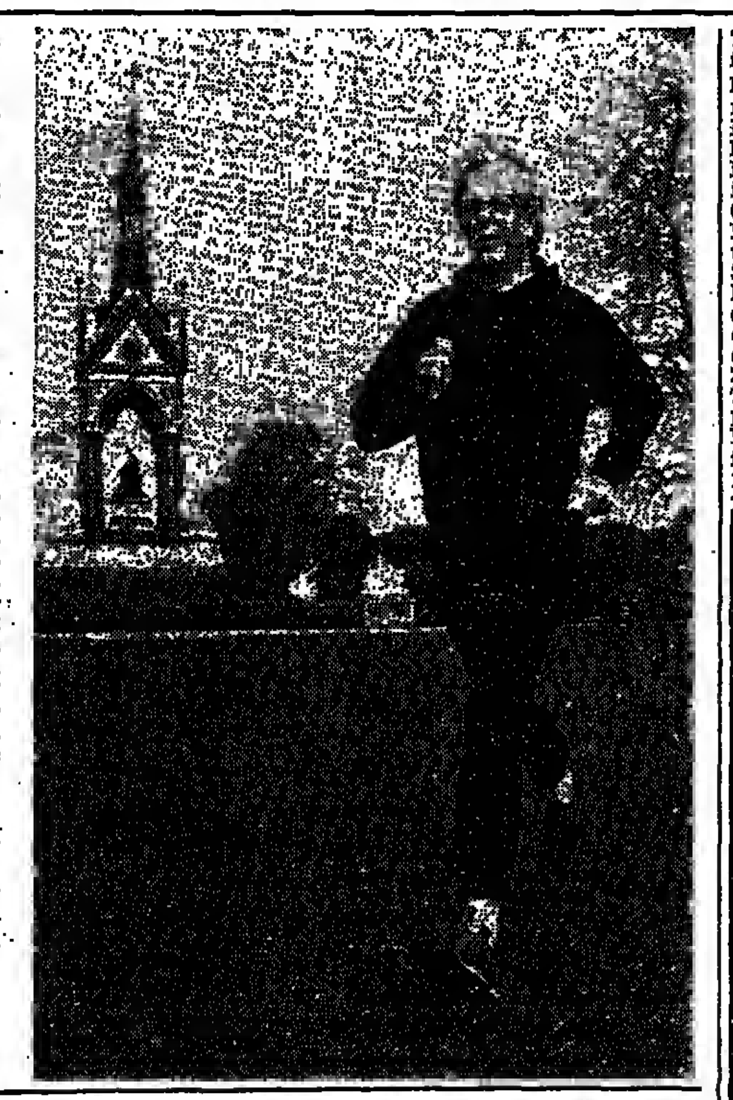
"I'm absolutely determined to finish," he said. "One's got to. It's all in the mind you know."

Max Dolding, a stockbroker with Vickers da Costa, is 39-years-old and used to be one and a-half stones overweight. When he started training for the Marathon he was gasping round the block, but now he can clock up 20 miles and is very confident he will finish. "I've got to," he says, referring to the £2,400 that he is being sponsored for the Cancer Research Campaign. One backer is offering him the Amersham share price per mile, and another the size of one of his colleague's hatband times a pound per mile.

Roger Gibbs said that he hoped he would not have cause during the race to become the first recipient of the scanner he is running for, and Jack Pemberton, company secretary and director of insurance brokers John Poel, says he will finish or "die in the attempt." His proceeds will go towards a cancer scanner at Chelmsford Hospital and have already reached four figures—if he finishes.

But while Messrs Gibbs, Pemberton and so on are busy subjecting themselves to a training schedule as rigorous as that of the marines on board *Invincible*, another potential participant in the marathon will only take part depending on those marines. Cecil Parkinson, MP, chairman of the Conservative Party, is due to enter, but will run only if the Falklands situation permits. At 51, and a Cambridge running blue, Mr Parkinson is still managing to train during the week, and according to Conservative Central Office, would not take part if he did not think he could finish.

Roger Gibbs has set himself up as a harder taskmaster. "I am aiming at doing it in four hour 55 minutes," he said. "At my age I think anything under five hours is respectable."



Mr Roger Gibbs, chairman of Gerrard and National, on an early morning run in Hyde Park. Photo by Hugh Routledge

Stock Market 'space invaders' in the U.S.

After zapping space invaders and smashing asteroids, video game addicts will shortly be able to take on another galactic monster: the stock market.

This week saw the launch in New York of "The Great Wall Street Fortune Hunt," a home video game where the player is threatened not by grunting Martians but by soaring interest rates, recession and international crisis. Some people can't tell it from real life.

Running across the top of the screen is a ticker giving the prices of 27 stocks. Almost all of them are well-known U.S. companies like Exxon, Sears and Texas Instruments. But there are one or two inventions like Wildcat Oil Western (WOW) which represent whole industries. Gold is also included.

Prices are affected by news flashes which pop up in the middle of the screen, like "Prime rate up 1 per cent." "Unrest brewing in Latin America," "Federal Reserve to slow money supply growth." The news is good for some stocks and bad for others, depending on their exposure. High interest rates might hurt an industrial stock but help a bank. War in the Middle East is good for oil stocks. All this is programed into the computer.

The player starts the game with $100,000 which he can put in seven investments. Then, as the stock prices and the news flashes roll by, he trades his investments by working the game's electronic controls. The game covers five years during which the player can either get wiped out or make a packet. The computer keeps a tally of his finances, and displays his portfolio in a box at the bottom of the screen.

The more advanced player can trade Treasury Bills and even buy options on margin meaning he must constantly juggle the economy, the cost of money and the political scene, none of which stay still more than a few seconds.

The game was devised by Odessey 2 the home video game company which is part of the North American subsidiary of Philips of the Netherlands. The designers worked closely with real financial traders and investment experts, which accounts for its striking authenticity.

"You've heard of hand-eye co-ordination" said the man from Odyssay. "Well, now you've got brain-eye co-ordination."

The game is one of the most complicated yet produced for home use and it needs a special expanded "memory cartridge." But while Odyssey obviously hopes to make money from it, the company recognises that the threat of a Fed credit tightening seems a bit lame compared to marauding Martians, and it does not expect sales to match hits like Space Invaders.

The cartridge costs about $50, less at discount stores. But players must also have a console which costs another $150.

Taking aircraft passengers to the cleaners

Jenny, who was serving lunch on our side of the cabin (20 to 29, F to K), served some of the more mobile items on to my jacket instead of the folding table.

She was even more alarmed than I was. "I feel so ashamed," she said. "It has never happened before." I assured her that it had happened to me before, though not in an aircraft. "Give me your coat," she besought me. I gave it to her and she took it behind that curtain where the stewardesses go to perform their secret rites. Then she brought it back for me to remove my notecase and my passport, and went on serving lunch.

Two or three hours later I looked behind the curtain to see how my coat was getting on, and found it on a wire hanger, impeccably clean, cleaner probably than it had been before lunch.

"How did you do that?" I asked Jenny when she joined me. "We use Club soda," she said. "That's what we always use."

I wasn't all that keen on "always," since it had "never happened before," but there was no doubt about its efficiency, and I forgave her for drenching me with what on investigation proved to be a mixture of water, soyabean oil, vinegar, sugar, salt, spices, dextrose, xan than and tragacanth gums, onion, garlic, caramal colour, natural flavouring, potassium sorbate and polysorbate 60, known for short as oil and vinegar dressing.

"Your jacket is as good as new, sir . . . and we've taken out tha stains that the other airlines couldn't cope with"

It wasn't quite so easy to forgive her for asking us all "to extinguish our smoking materials at this time" when she meant put out our cigarettes *now*, but I suppose every profession has its jargon.

A British cockroach trap

A small Cotswold company of corrosion consultants are about to market a product of high-technology which could herald the end of that lowly-regarded scourge—the British cockroach.

NICC, based near Cirencester, Gloucestershire, specialise in providing a corrosion-prevention service to the world's biggest oil companies. But the travels of their Managing Director, Anthony Strange, have provided a useful diversification.

"We work in liaison with a Japanese company, who also have a pharmaceutical division. Whilst on a visit I was shown a sample of their Cockroach Trap, and I immediately thought 'What a gimmick.' The Japanese are so fastidious that it is an obvious line for their home market."

The disposable trap, in the shape of a cardboard envelope, incorporates a special silicone-treated paper, evolved from the same technology as the "shrink sleeves" of plastic employed in the protection of pipelines. It incorporates an adhesive pad impregnated with a unique, synthesized scent which attracts cockroaches as if to food. (The cockroach deposits this scent in its saliva to let its ch[illegible] know where food is to be had.) Once on the trap, they are held fast by a strong adhesive and cannot escape.

"The samples I brought back have proved extremely efficient," said Strange. "We have already had satisfied customers in various Health Authorities. Even the Pump Rooms in Bath have used them successfully. Cockroaches were destroying some of their exhibits—they enjoyed tha taste of certain dyes in old clothes."

The traps cost 45p each for orders under 100, reducing to 28p for larger orders up to 1,000, and they have a lifespan of about 30 days. A well-known hotel chain is already a customer, but NICC loyally refuses to disclose its title. This is evidently one topic where good public relations might still result in a bad press for the establishment concerned.

"Cockroaches are an embarrassing nuisance. No matter how good the hygiene and cleanliness of the establishment, they still keep turning up."

The company points out that although advertisements are being placed in major shipping journals, it has not directly approached the Ministry of Defence. But the trap "would be an ideal product for ships, whether of the Royal or Merchant Navies."

Once the British beastie has been banished, the company plan to offer the trap to the rest of Europe. "They are something that you could pack with your holiday luggage, along with water sterilising tablets. We also think they will be of interest to British expatriates living abroad—especially in tha Middle East."

At present, the public may buy direct from NICC, but they intend to establish a national chain of distributors in the near future. "We may be corrosion consultants, but we are quite happy to become experts in pest control, too," maintains Tony Strange. "Business is all around you—it is up to the individual to grasp it."

Contributors:

Belinda Nenk
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Economic diary

TOMORROW: Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

MONDAY: Institutional investment in the fourth quarter. EEC Finance Ministers meet in Luxembourg. EEC Foreign Ministers start two-day meeting in Luxembourg. Sr Nicanor Costa Mendez, the Argentinian Foreign Minister, will address the Organisation of American States in Washington. COHSE begins industrial action over pay claim. International Chamber of Commerce seminar on "Financial Futures Markets" in Zurich.

TUESDAY: Provisional unemployment figures for April. Provisional unfilled vacancies for April. Bricks and cement production in first quarter. EEC standing committee on employment meets in Brussels. EEC economic and social committee in plenary session in Brussels (until April 29). The Institute for Fiscal Studies seminar on "Microeconomics and Microeconomic views of the Budget" at Regent Palace Hotel, W1.

WEDNESDAY: Overseas travel and tourism (January/February). EEC Agriculture Ministers meet in Brussels. Commons debates Northern Ireland devolution White Paper. Social services select committee on Public Expenditure White Paper. Mr Norman Tebbit, Employment Secretary, addresses Primrose League at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

THURSDAY: FT Conference entitled "Seventh industrial relations conference—will Tebbit succeed?" at the London Hilton. Energy trends. Final unemployment and unfilled vacancies for March. Employment in the production industries in February. Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries in February. Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes in March. Quarterly estimates of employees in employment (December).

FRIDAY: Final car and commercial vehicle production figures for March. Final ratification of the sixth International Tin Agreement. Banks meet in London to discuss Polish debt.

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Deposit rate %	Share accounts %	Sub'pn shares %	*Term shares %	
Abbey National	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	6 years sixty plus. 10.25 1 year high option, 9.25-10.75 1-5 years open bondshares
Aid to Thrift	9.55	9.80	—	—	
Alliance	6.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	5 y., 10.25 4 y., 10.25 £500 min. 2 m. not. or £100+60 d. int. pen.
Anglia	8.50	8.75	10.00	11.00	6 yrs., 9.75 1 mth. not. int. loss
Bradford and Bingley	8.25	6.75	10.00	9.75	1 month's notice
Bridgwater	8.50	8.75	10.25	10.75	5 yrs., 9.85 2½ yrs.
Bristol Economic	8.50	8.75	10.00	9.50	3 months' notice and 9.75 on balances of £10,000 and over. Escalator shs. 9.25-10.75 (1-5 y.)
Britannia	8.50	6.75	10.00	10.25	4 yrs., 10.00 2 months' notice
Burnley	†8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	5 yrs., 3 mth. not.; 9.75 1 m. not.
Cardiff	8.50	‡9.25	10.25	9.50	on bal.: £3,000-10,000; ‡ to £3,000
Cardiff	—	10.00	—	—	£10,000 and over
Catholic	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.25	on share balances of £5,001+
Chelsea	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.00	1 mth. or on demand (int. pen.)
Cheltenham and Gloucester	8.50	8.75	10.00	—	
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	9.75	—	—	Gold Account. Savings of £1,000 or more (6.75 otherwise)
Citizens Regency	—	10.00	11.25	12.00	5 yrs., 11.05 3 mths.' notice a/c, 11.30 6 mths.' notice a/c
City of London (The)	8.75	9.10	10.25	10.25	Capital City shs. 4 mths.' notice
Coventry Economic	6.50	8.75	10.25	10.50	4 yrs., 10.25 3 yrs., 10.00 3 mths.
Derbyshire	8.50	8.75	10.00		9.25-9.85 (3 months' notice)
Ealing and Acton	8.50	9.25	—	9.90	2 yrs., £2,000 min.
Gateway	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	5 yrs., 10.25 4 yrs., 9.75 3 yrs.
Gateway	—	9.75	—	—	Plus a/c £500 min. Int. ½-yearly
Greenwich	—	8.85	10.10	10.85	5 yrs., 10.10 3 months' notice
Guardian	8.50	9.00	—	10.75	6 mth., 10.25 3 mth., £1,000 min.
Halifax	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	5 yrs., 3 mths.' wdl. notice
Heart of England	8.50	8.75	10.00	—	3 mths.' notice 9.75, 5 yrs. 10.75
Hearts of Oak and Enfield	8.50	9.00	10.50	10.75	5 yrs., 10.25 6 mth., 10.00 4 mth.
Hendon	9.00	9.75	—	10.50	6 mths., 10.25 3 mths.
Lambeth	8.50	9.00	10.50	11.00	5 yrs., 10.75 6 months' notice
Leamington Spa	8.60	8.85	11.93	10.35	1 year
Leeds and Holbeck	8.50	8.75	10.50	10.75	5 yrs., 9.75 1 mth. int. penalty
Leeds Permanent	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	3 yrs., E.I. a/c £500 min. 9.75
Leicester	8.50	6.75	10.00	10.75	5 yrs., 10.25 4 yrs., 9.75 3 mths.
Liverpool	9.50	9.75	11.05	11.75	5 yrs., 10.80 1 mth. int. penalty
London Grosvenor	8.00	9.25	11.00	9.75	3 mths.' notice 1 mth. int. pen.
Mornington	9.30	9.80	—	—	
National Counties	8.75	9.05	10.05	9.75	35 days' notice min. dep. £500, 10.15 6 mths.' min. dep. £500
Nationwide	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	5 yrs., £500 min. 90 days' notice. Bonus a/c 9.75 £1,000 min., 28 days' notice
Newcastle	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	4 yrs., 9.75 2 mths.' notice, or on demand 28 days' int. penalty
New Cross	9.50	9.75	—		9.75-10.50 on share accs., depending on min. balance over 6 months
Northern Rock	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	5 yrs., 10.25 4 yrs., 9.75 3 yrs.
Norwich	9.50	9.75	11.25	10.75	3 yrs., 10.50 2 yrs.
Paddington	9.25	10.25	11.75	11.25	Loss 1 month int. on sums wdn.
Peckham Mutual	8.50	9.50	—	10.00	2 y., 10.5 3 y., 11.0 4 y., 9.75 Bns.
Portsmouth	8.85	9.05	10.55	11.10	(5 yrs.) to 10.50 (6 mths.)
Property Owners	9.75	10.25	11.75	11.75	4 yrs., 11.75 6 mth., 11.05 3 mth.
Provincial	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	3 yrs., 9.75 1 month
Skipton	8.50	8.75	10.00		9.85-10.00 28 days' interest penalty
Sussex County	8.75	9.00	11.25	10.00	instant withdrawal option
Sussex Mutual	8.75	9.25	10.75		9.50-10.75 all with special options
Town and Country	8.50	8.75	10.00	11.00	5 yr., 10.75 3 yr. 60 d. wdl. not., 10 2 mth. not./28 days' int. loss
Wessex	7.75	9.80	—	—	
Woolwich	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.75	90 days (int. loss), 9.75 immed. access (int. loss) or 28 dys.' not.
Yorkshire formerly Huddersfield & Bradford and West Yorkshire	8.50	8.75	10.00	10.25	5 yrs., 10.25 4 yrs., 9.75 3 yrs., 9.25 2 yrs., 10.00 Golden key, 28 days' penalty interest

*Rates normally variable in line with changes in ordinary share rates. † From May 1.
All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

Richardsons Westgarth £0.8m loss

THE "SIGNIFICENT improvement" in second half trading foreshadowed by the directors of Richardsons Westgarth, the engineering and stockholding group, did not materialise and the pre-tax loss for 1981 comes out at £833,000 after a deficit of £984,000 in the first six months. In 1980 there was a profit of £746,000.

The dividend is being cut from 2.1p to 1.5p, with a reduced final of 0.75p (1.05p).

The directors state that "the very modest profit earned on the second half year's trading did little to alleviate the large loss incurred in the first half."

They report that the stockholding companies performed much better, but only a marginal improvement was achieved by the manufacturing companies. The engineering services companies were hampered by a further decline in ship repairing. The £17.25m order received last week from Houlder Offshore for a diving support vessel was "particularly welcome," they add.

The main cause of the loss for the year was a turnround from a profit of £326,000 to a loss of £897,000 in the manufacture of engineering products where turnover dropped from £9.85m to £8.89m. In the other areas turnover of the engineering services companies was static at £25.3m (£25.9m), producing a loss of £35,000 (profit £249,000). Stockholding and merchanting turnover was higher, at £15.49m (£13.81m), but profits there declined from £17,000 to £99,000.

The pre-tax loss was after charging depreciation of £657,000 (£609,000), and interest payable of £246,000 (£227,000).

After taking into account a tax credit of £1.43m (£393,000 charge) and minority interests of £56,000 (£55,000), there is an attributable profit of £536,000 (£298,000)—equal to earnings of 4.2p (2.3p), including in 1981 8.4p in respect of the tax credit. The tax credit reflects the inclusion of deferred tax released in respect of stock relief £1.56m, less irrecoverable ACT written off amounting to £1.06m.

The CCA loss is given at £1.4m (£127,000 profit).

● comment

Last week's £17m order for a diving support vessel has come too late to have much impact on the 1982 figures of Richardsons Westgarth, however helpful it may be in 1983. And the renewed profitability of RW's steel stockholding companies, which looked in the autumn as if it might be the leading edge of an upturn, has yet to be echoed in the group's engineering side. But both stockholding and shipfitting at least seem to be on an improving trend; pre-interest profits in stockholding for the first two months of 1982 were almost double those for the whole of 1981, with its loss-making first half. Rebuilding metal stocks will require financing, at a time when RW could be some way short of covering costs in manufacturing and services. Although £1.3m of £1 per cent loan stock has had to be replaced by overdraft, there is not felt to be any real strain on the balance-sheet. Unfortunately, the order books for heavy gear-boxes and boilers are not good, while a number of the smaller companies are emerging from management re-fits (with uncertain effect as yet). At 25p, half their par value, the shares yield almost 9 per cent, which has evidently been a less than sufficient inducement to hang on for the next recovery, which could easily be another year ahead.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corre-sponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Albany Inv.	1.45	—	1.4	2.05	2
Allebone & Sons	Nil	—	1	Nil	1
Amalgamated Metal	Nil	—	6	2	9
Bentalls	1.2	June 9	1.05	1.5	1.35
S. Caskat ...int	0.5	June 25	0.5	—	1.75
Futural Holdings 2nd int	1.69	May 17	1.54	2.85	2.59
Grampian TV	2.25	May 26	1.75	3.25	2.75
F. Miller	1.44	May 21	1.3	2.44	2.2
Richardsons Westgarth	0.75	July 1	1.05	1.5	2.1
Scots Nthn Inv Tr	2.38	June 19	2.25	3.58	3.45
Stylo	3.5	Oct 1	3	3.5	3

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.
* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ USM Stock.

Grampian TV lifts profit and dividend

SOMEWHAT in contrast to the cautionary remarks made last year, Grampian Television has recorded a 24.6 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the year ended February 28 1982. The surplus is £642,790, compared to £516,040, and the dividend is lifted from 2.75p to 3.25p net with a final of 2.25p.

The first quarter of the current year is encouraging, reports Mr Iain Tennant, the chairman, and as to the future profitability of the group he offers "cautious optimism."

Mr Tennant points out that in his remarks last year he was not being pessimistic, for the performance for July was in line with a projected loss, brought about by greatly increased commitments.

In the event, both network advertising revenue and STAGS' share of that revenue increased "quite remarkably and unexpectedly" last autumn: and, in the final two months Grampian's own sales department made a successful start to its operation by raising the network share to record levels.

Revenue at £8.95m (£6.93m) has increased by 29.2 per cent with profits from the television operation at £695,236 (£471,454), an advance of 47.5 per cent. Glenburnie Properties contributed £152,457 (£149,586) to profits, while the new subsidiary Blenheim Travel (which commenced business last November) made an expected loss of £17,133 in its first period of trading. Television levy took £187,782 (£105,000).

After tax £54,000 (£66,000), net profit was £589,000 (£450,000) and earnings were 13.1p (10p). Dividend absorbs £146,000 (£124,000).

BIDS AND DEALS

Management buy-out of Pentos greenhouse group

BY DUNCAN CAMPBELL-SMITH

PENTOS, the industrial holding company engaged in a substantial re-organisation programme, has disposed of its successful greenhouse and garden equipment businesses in a management buy-out realising total cash proceeds of £3.4m.

Halls Homes and Gardens is the best-known of four subsidiaries of Cedarworth Homes of Britain which has been acquired by Piloistar Limited, a consortium company put together by a group of the subsidiaries' directors and three City institutions.

Halls is a leading manufacturer of greenhouses with 55 per cent of the UK market, and a growing presence in the other EEC countries. It estimates its turnover for 1982 at £10m and expects pre-tax profits of about £400,000. It employs 180 people, whose terms and conditions remain unaffected by the sale.

The management team, which is headed by Mr Clive Gregory as managing director, has taken a 53.4 per cent stake in the equity. Citicorp Development Capital was principal advisor to the deal and has taken 11.3 per cent. County Bank has 24 per cent, and pension funds of the National Coal Board have 11.3 per cent.

The equity comprises £1.25m of ordinary stock and a preferred stock effectively bearing a net 11 per cent dividend. County Bank has loaned £600,000. The balance of the purchase price has been met by a deferral by Pentos of £1.5m into two future instalments.

The financing of the buy-out has finally been assisted by a working capital overdraft facility of up to £2m from County Bank and the National Westminster group.

Mr Gregory said the whole deal had taken "about five months between my first visit to the City and the conclusion." He, himself, launched the project last autumn after reading Press reviews of the buy-out concept. He arranged the deal in outline. Citicorp Development Capital then helped negotiate the details, including the finally agreed price.

Mr John Moulton, of Citicorp, will represent all the outside investors on the Piloistar board. Pentos will also retain a director, Mr Eric Cater, until the financial settlement is complete.

Mr Terry Maher, chairman of Pentos, said the timing of the sale had reflected his company's continuing efforts to reduce its borrowings. These were cut by £4.5m last year and he said Pentos was now well on target to reduce them by a further £4.5m to £6m.

The principal motive behind the sale, however, reflected Pentos's prevailing philosophy. "Pentos has a developing role, and Halls had reached a point where the concentration of independent management resources would best aid its future growth," said Mr Maher.

Bentalls advances to £2m

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES department store group Bentalls reports a jump in group pre-tax profits from £1.35m to £2.03m in the year ended January 30, 1982 on turnover 7.8 per cent ahead at £47.5m. At the interim stage a rise from £104,000 to £410,000 was shown.

The dividend is lifted from 1.35p to 1.5p net, with a final of 1.2p.

The directors state that the "substantially better performance was achieved as a result of a successful series of carefully planned promotional events combined with a continuance of the cost cutting exercise initiated in 1981."

They report that the new store at Tonbridge has made a promising start, and sales at the other stores have continued into the current year at a satisfactory level.

After providing for tax of £485,000 (£362,000), the net profit came out at £1.55m (£990,000) before extraordinary credits, after tax, of £70,000 (£15,000). Dividends absorb £628,000 (£565,000), leaving retained profits of £990,000 £440,000.

Pre-tax earnings per 10p share are stated at 4.88p (3.24p) and net earnings at 3.71p (2.37p). The CCA pre-tax profit is given at £1.15m (£297,000).

Higher loss at Solicitors' Law

PRE-TAX losses of the Solicitors' Law Stationery Society, the printing, legal services and conferences group, have increased from £630,000 to £739,000 for 1981, on a lower turnover of £21.98m, against £23.05m. At half-time, the company reported a slight fall in taxable profits from £70,000 to £53,000.

There is again no dividend for the year — the last payments were in respect of 1979 and totalled 1.474p net per share.

The 1981 pre-tax deficit was struck after interest of £467,000 (£521,000) and share of associates losses of £57,000 (£199,000). Tax charge was £11,000 (£151,000 credit) and there were extraordinary profits of £1.08m (£0.69m losses).

The extraordinary items included a profit of £1.73m on the disposal of book and periodical publishing interests, less a loss of £551,000 on the closure of C. E. Dawkins (Typesetters).

Stated loss per 25p share was 8.5p (4.2p), but after extraordinary items there were earnings of 2.9p (10.2p loss).

During 1981 the reorganisation of the management and structure of the group was completed. The board is confident that the groundwork has been done which will make possible a recovery of its fortunes.

The simplification of the organisation has shortened lines of communications and enabled considerable economies to be made in operating costs. Consequently, the group's break-even point is now significantly less than at the beginning of 1981.

This contraction has, however, meant the loss of a number of jobs. The group's employee strength has been reduced by 28 per cent between July, 1980 and March, 1982.

Through Oyez Computers, the company is able to offer solicitors computer systems using advanced communications technology. This is seen as a considerable growth area and much effort is being made to keep abreast of rapid developments taking place in this field.

The conference company has made profits in the first month of this year and, with its careful diversification into alternative markets and sources of income, it will contribute to the group's recovery.

In legal services, the board is confident that new policies being followed by the stationery company will succeed in recovering much of the market lost over the last four years. A modest expansion of the retail chain has started.

The sale of the company's book and periodical publishing interests, reduced group borrowings by around two-thirds. Since the end of 1981 further restructuring of remaining borrowings has been negotiated.

The outstanding term loan originally raised to finance the group's involvement in Europe is to be repaid and a new seven year secured term loan of £1m is being raised. This will further reduce the overdraft and strengthen the group's balance sheet.

A breakdown of pre-tax losses (in 000's) shows: Continuing business—professional systems, services and stationery profits £390 (£431); printing profits £162 (£136); conference and seminars loss £381 (£8). Terminated business — professional systems, services and stationery losses £62 (£150); printing losses £365 (£434).

● comment

Solicitors' Law held back its preliminary report in order to see more of the current year before revealing 1981's bad news. In the event, the company is not hopping up and down about excellent recovery prospects but does expect to pull up into profit in 1982. Many of the problems of the past have been chopped or sold, with £427,000 of the 1981 pre-tax loss now eliminated. The second half was a big disappointment, however, largely due to a drastic fall-off in conference activity. Mrs Thatcher's Government is not legislating as much, the company says, and hence the country's legal profession has less to chew over. Even so, the company has been able to reduce borrowings by about £2½m and bring down capital gearing to about 40 per cent. Robert Maxwell is presumably too busy to do anything about this 23 per cent stake for the moment. The tightly-held shares were fell 2p yesterday to 28p, giving the company a market capitalisation of about £3.3m.

F. Miller profits just ahead

WITH SECOND half profits of F. Miller (Textiles) virtually static at £1.48m, against £1.47m, this clothing manufacturer for Marks and Spencer finished the year to February 13 1982 just ahead at £2.39m, pre-tax, compared with £2.32m. Turnover rose from £3.05m to £3.58m.

The directors say that trading conditions remained difficult during the period, but they hope the company will make progress in the current year.

The dividend, however, is lifted to 2.44p (2.2p) net per 10p share with a final payment of 1.44p.

Pre-tax figure included interest receivable of £454,000, against £474,000, and a profit on the sale of assets amounting to £6,000 (£1,000).

Net profits came through at £1.15m (£1.13m) after a tax charge of £1.2m, compared with £1.14m.

Sketchley decision time on U.S. linen hire bid

SKETCHLEY'S long pursuit of Means Incorporated, the Chicago-based linen hire and dry-cleaning group, was nearing a conclusion yesterday and Sketchley expects to decide this weekend whether to continue its $40.8m offer in the face of a higher counter-bid from ARA Services Incorporated.

The U.S. Justices Department is to file an anti-trust suit to challenge ARA's proposed acquisition unless the deal is restructured to avoid certain competitive problems.

The problem areas, Sketchley understands, relate to the overlaps in Means' and ARA's business in three U.S. cities, Charleston, West Virginia, Columbus, Ohio and Cleveland-Akron.

Sketchley will discover this weekend whether Means' plans to sell its Columbus and Charleston plants and dispose of its Cleveland-Akron facility add up to a sufficient restructuring for anti-trust purposes. ARA is also understood to be trying to sell assets in these areas in order to eliminate the competitive overlap.

The UK bidder will also find out whether its efforts to bring forward the May 3 deadline for releasing the 86 per cent of Means stock tendered to ARA have been successful. Sketchley has been encouraged here by the pressures suffered during the long legal extensions by many of the large New York arbitrageur holders of Means equity.

Centreway buys Westerly Yachts from receiver

Centreway Industries is entering the leisure industry by the acquisition of Westerly Yachts, a new company, from the receivers of Westerly Marine Construction.

Westerly Yachts, which manufactures glass fibre yachts and motor sailers principally for the cruising market, acquired certain assets from the receivers at the beginning of November 1981 and has subsequently carried on that part of the business.

Centreway is paying £2 for the capital of Westerly Yacht. It has also agreed to subscribe in cash sufficient loan capital of the company to enable it to discharge the debt due to the receivers in respect of the assets acquired. This is anticipated to amount to, and cannot exceed, £400,000.

Centreway is also acquiring for £115,000 cash from the receivers a freehold property currently occupied by Westerly Yacht and to pay to them £20,000 in cash as a premium for the leases of the three properties occupied by the boat company.

Tricentrol—Morgan Grenfell as an associate of Tricentrol purchased on behalf of discretionary clients 53,000 Tricentrol ordinary shares at £1.99.

OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION

Guinness Mahon has disposed of 250,000 fully paid ordinary and 1m partly paid ordinary of Oil and Gas Production. Its interest is accordingly reduced to 2.33m fully paid, and 1.1m partly paid ordinary.

CCP SAYS ACCEPT

CCP North Sea Associates has written to shareholders recommending acceptance of the Tricentrol offer. This follows the announcement by Charterhouse of the withdrawal of their own proposed offer.

Mr G. G. Stockwell, chairman of CCP, says in the letter that holders of 42.5 per cent of the CCP ordinary shares have indicated that they now intend to accept the Tricentrol offer, including Cluff Oil which holds 29.99 per cent.

Mr Stockwell intends to accept the offer in respect of his own holding of 2,800 ordinary shares.

ARLINGTON BUYS

Arlington Motor Holdings has acquired Motor Auctions (West Bromwich) for £650,000 cash.

Arlington directors believe there is scope to increase profits of Motor so as to provide an attractive return on capital invested.

For the year ended May 5 1981 pre-tax profits of Motor amounted to £54,169 and net assets, at that date, were £156,360.

PERGAMON/ARNOLD

Offers by Pergamon Press to acquire E. J. Arnold and Son have been declared unconditional in all respects. The preference offer will remain open until further notice. The ordinary and preferred offers have been accepted in full. The preference offer has been accepted in respect of 91.29 per cent of the shares.

Second half upsurge at Stylo

DESPITE INTEREST charges up from £758,000 to £996,000, Stylo reports a substantial improvement from £222,000 to £824,000 in pre-tax profits for the 52 weeks to January 30 1982. At the interim stage, this footwear and clothing retailer and manufacturer of sports footwear had losses of £709,733.

Sales for the year climbed from £31.02m to £44.01m. The dividend is raised from 3p to 3.5p.

There was a tax charge of £157,000 against a credit of £365,000. After extraordinary credits of £86,000 (£190,000), stated earnings per 25p share were 6.39p (5.63p) and 0.54p excluding an exceptional tax credit of £500,000).

TSW warns on second half

IN THEIR first interim statement, directors of TSW-Television South West Holdings, which has the franchise for the south west region of England for eight years, announce taxable profits of £705,000 for the six months to January 31 1982 after an Exchequer Levy of £277,000.

Directors say that the level of profits in the second half will be lower than those of the first.

Turnover amounted to £7.69m and after tax of £401,000 earnings per share are shown at 1.45p.

Payment of a dividend will be considered when full-year results are known. The directors explain that any payment can only be made out of profits after making good prior trading losses of £196,000 shown in the accounts as at July 31 1981.

Acquisition of the site adjacent to the Derry's Cross studios has been approved by the Plymouth City Council and refurbishment and extension of the premises is proceeding as planned, directors state.

The board has, subject to formal IBA approval, appointed Mr Kevin Goldstein-Jackson as chief executive and programme controller with responsibility for programming and formulating policy; Mr Peter Battle becomes sole managing director.

● comment

On the face of it, TSW looks to be a far more profitable company than the old Westward but the new franchise has been blessed with rapidly expanding advertising revenue for its maiden run so perhaps direct comparisons are a bit invidious. Nevertheless advertising revenue bounced up by 36 per cent, six points more than the national figures. But it would be too much to hope that this sort of growth can be maintained. Also TSW will have to fork out £370,000 to the IBA this year for its share of Channel 4 while revenue will not start flowing back until after November. And programme spending looks set to rise as the new station launches into a seven part half hour natural history programme, with top names in front and behind the camera. There is also an hour-long drama. They are costly and being made with an eye to the network and perhaps (bearing in mind Anglia's success with Survival) the overseas market. So second half profits will be lower than those of the interim. On the indicated final of 0.6p the shares yield 5 per cent at 17p.

Results due next week

Inspired by increasing evidence that Christmas and the opening months of 1982 were not the disaster for retailers that some bad feared, analysts have been pushing up their predictions for Marks and Spencer's full year figures. The market is not happily talking about £210m for the year to March excluding property sales. A rise of £30m pre-tax is impressive by any standards but anything less might well disappoint, for the brokers are already thinking in terms of £240m for 1982-83. The results, out on Thursday, will cover 53 weeks. That extra week's trading could make quite an impact as it takes M and S much closer to the buoyant Easter period. But the real key to the performance is the group's amazing volume gains. Food volume probably rose by over 10 per cent and non-food by 6 or 7 per cent—far ahead of sector averages. What is more the group is successfully squeezing overheads.

Currencies, once again, will be a prime factor in BAT Industries full-year figures due to be announced next Thursday. With the dollar firmly in its favour and good growth reported by its U.S. activities, BATs is expected to produce pre-tax profits of between £620m and £630m (vs. 1981, against £479m last year. Worldwide, the tobacco business has moved ahead with strong aid from Brazil. The retail division will show a sharp improvement because of the gains by its U.S. stores — in dollar terms they should show a profit increase of about 30 per cent. Packaging and printing continues to look dull but the group's cosmetics interests are expected to show a profit in 1981. Analysts expect an increase at the final, for a full-year dividend of 22p to 23p, against 19p net last year.

After Blue Circle's surprisingly good figures at the interim stage, analysts are confidently predicting a full-year improvement to between £100m and £115m, against £76.6m last year. Overseas activities, notably Mexico and Chile, have provided most of the growth in 1981 while the situation in the home market has not been as bad as expected. Once the figures are announced on Thursday, analysts will be quickly looking ahead to 1982, which some believe holds less promise. Mexico, Chile and South Africa are now providing the bulk for BCI's profits, but the mainspring for each of these economies has now been undermined: copper in the case of Chile, oil for Mexico and gold for South Africa. Nigeria provides even less cheer. Even so, analysts expect an improvement in the full-year dividend to perhaps 17p from 15p last year.

The market is looking for about £45m pre-tax profit from George Wimpey, the construction engineering group, which announces its yearly figures on Thursday. The gross dividend is expected to be 4p. Tough conditions in the UK and increasing competition in housebuilding are likely to have hurt the company, although the 1981 figures will reflect the large-scale boost to business with the Dubai smelter project. Profits will be slightly down on the 1980 level but with an improvement in the dividend.

Tarmac, the construction and buildings products group, is reporting its profits on Tuesday. The market expects a pre tax profit figure of £48.5m with a gross dividend of between 25p and 26.7p. The company has pushed house sales with a package approach. Although Tarmac is obviously affected by the continued recession in construction there are signs that this side has been tendering only for high margin business against a background of lower volume and orders. Pre tax profits for 1980/81 were £44m.

Imperial Chemical Industries announces its quarterly results on Thursday with market estimates of its pre tax profits ranging from £75m to £90m. There has not been much change in overall volume compared to the same period last year but the group has been hit by the U.S. down turn. The losses in the petrochemicals and plastics division have increased. The market takes the view that the first quarter for ICI is traditionally stronger than the preceding last quarter. ICI's gloomy statement on further job cuts on Thursday at the annual meeting adds to analysts pessimism over the profits performance on turnover.

Other companies reporting preliminary figures next week include Clive Discount (Monday), John Laing, Newarthill and Tozer Kemsley Millbourn (Tuesday), Jessel Townbee, W. H. Smith and House of Fraser (Wednesday), BSG International (Thursday). Hoover's first quarter figures are expected on Thursday.

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Last year Final	This year Int.
FINAL DIVIDEND				
Astbury and Madeley (Holdings)	Tuesday	1.0	4.0	1.0
Ayrshire Metal Products	Friday	2.0	—	—
BAT Industries	Wednesday	12.5‡	8.5	14.5‡
Blue Circle Industries	Wednesday	5.0	10.0	5.75
Boosey and Hawkes	Friday	1.9	3.767	1.9
Boot (Henry) and Sons	Thursday	3.0	10.0	3.0
Border Breweries (Wrexham)	Wednesday	1.3	3.6	1.4
Brook Street Bureau of Mayfair	Monday	1.135	1.0	—
B.S.G. International	Thursday	—	—	0.1
Clarke, Nickolls and Coombs	Monday	1.75	2.25	1.75
Clayton (Holdings)	Friday	1.3975	4.8029	0.9317
Clement Clarke (Holdings)	Monday	1.1525	1.5125	1.2675
Clive Discount Holdings	Monday	0.5	1.0	—
Cole Group	Friday	—	2.0	—
Crowther (John) Group	Monday	—	—	—
Davies and Newman Holdings	Friday	3.08	6.16	—
De Vere Hotels and Restaurants	Thursday	3.0	3.0	3.0
Downiebrae Holdings	Thursday	0.9	—	—
English National Investment	Tuesday	1.05	1.31	1.05
Farnell Electronics	Tuesday	1.5	3.7	1.8
Flight Refuelling (Holdings)	Thursday	0.95	1.6	1.4
Highcroft Investment Trust	Thursday	1.0	1.5	1.15
Holyrood Rubber	Thursday	15.0	30.0	15.0
Hongkong (Selangor) Rubber	Thursday	6.0	13.0	8.0
Hopkinsons Holdings	Thursday	1.5	4.16	1.5
Haskins and Horton	Wednesday	—	2.0	2.0
House of Fraser	Wednesday	2.0	4.5	2.0
Hunting Petroleum Services	Wednesday	2.0	4.5	2.25
Hyman (I. and J.)	Monday	0.4136	0.4136	—
Jessel, Toynbee	Wednesday	1.75	3.25	1.75
Kuala Selangor Rubber	Thursday	4.5	9.0	4.5
Laing (John)	Tuesday	1.0	1.875	1.0
Lake View Investment Trust	Tuesday	1.2	2.65	1.5
Liberty and Co.	Wednesday	0.4	1.3	0.4
Lilleshall	Wednesday	1.0	2.5	1.0
London United Investments	Tuesday	4.0	5.0	4.0
Maclellan (P. and W.)	Friday	0.5	0.93	0.5
Marks and Spencer	Thursday	1.5	2.3	1.75
Marlborough Property Holdings	Tuesday	—	0.325	—
Moss Bros.	Thursday	0.7	1.0	0.7
Neill (James) Holdings	Wednesday	—	—	—
Newarthill	Tuesday	—	7.0	—
Office and Electronic Machines	Thursday	2.5	4.5	2.5
Parambe	Tuesday	0.2	0.4	0.25
Pentland Industries	Wednesday	0.35	1.3	0.4
Petrocon Group	Wednesday	—	—	0.75
Silentnight Holdings	Tuesday	1.0	2.8	2.0
Simon Engineering	Monday	4.0	8.0	4.6
Slingsby (H. C.)	Monday	0.6	1.8	0.6
Small (John C.) and Tidmas	Tuesday	1.5	1.6	—
Smith (W. H.) and Son (Holdings) "A" share	Wednesday	1.4	3.2	1.5
Smith (W. H.) and Son (Holdings) "B" share	Wednesday	0.28	0.64	0.3
Sparrow (G. W.) and Sons	Wednesday	0.88	1.12	0.8
Sunlight Service Group	Friday	0.55	1.95	0.6
Tarmac	Tuesday	5.5	10.5	5.9
Telephone Rentals	Wednesday	2.0	6.25	4.0
Thomson T-Line Caravans	Wednesday	—	—	—
Toye	Tuesday	—	1.825	—
Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn (Hldgs.)	Tuesday	1.59	0.795	3.3
Travis and Arnold	Monday	0.64	3.3	0.64
Turriff Corporation	Tuesday	—	4.0	—
Viking Resources Trust	Monday	0.4	0.4	0.4
Wadkin	Tuesday	1.5	1.75	—
Wharmon Reeve Angel	Wednesday	1.6	1.9	1.8
Wilkes (James)	Friday	1.5	2.625	1.5
Wimpey (George)	Thursday	0.85	1.7	0.85
Yule Catto	Thursday	0.8	1.2	1.0
INTERIM DIVIDENDS				
Aberdeen Trust	Thursday	2.1	4.0	
Arenson Group	Thursday	0.52	0.705	
Ben Bailey Construction	Thursday	0.44	0.58	
Border and Southern Stockholders Tst.	Tuesday	1.29	1.5	
Devenish (J. A.)	Wednesday	2.25	6.25	
Fitzwilton	Friday	2.0	3.5	
Lyles (S.)	Monday	2.0	4.25	
North British Properties	Tuesday	1.1	2.0	
Safeguard Industrial Investments	Tuesday	1.8	4.0	
Simpson (S.)	Thursday	1.0	2.0	
United Wire Group	Thursday	2.2	3.65	
INTERIM FIGURES				
Audio Fidelity	Thursday			
Greencoat Properties	Tuesday			
Hoover	Thursday†			
Imperial Chemical Industries	Thursday†			
Microfilm Reprographics	Wednesday			

* Dividends are shown net pence per share and adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † First-quarter figures. ‡ Total of first and second interim dividends.

Amalgamated Metal falls to £6.73m

Taxable profits of Amalgamated Metal Corporation, a subsidiary of Preussag AG, have tumbled from £11.37m to £6.73m for 1981, following the mid-year reduction from £7.27m to £3.35m.

In order to pursue a policy of strengthening its reserves, the company is omitting the final dividend. The interim payment of 2p net therefore compares with the previous year's total of 9p, of which 6p related to the final.

Turnover for the year showed a rise from £1.31bn to £1.41bn. Profits before tax included lower investment income of £1.34m (£2.16m) and associates' contributions of £0.05m (£0.69m).

Tax charge was down from £5.58m to £3.8m, minorities took £1.41m (£2.62m) and extraordinary debits decreased from £1.25m to £0.5m. There were also exchange credits of £3.31m (£1.17m debits).

Stated earnings per £1 share were 22.4p (48.6p) before extraordinary items, and 14.4p (28.7p) after.

Allebone £0.7m in the red

AT THE pre-tax level, Allebone and Sons, footwear manufacturer and retailer, made losses of £418,000 in the second six months to January 31 1982 against a profit of £171,000 last time. This left full-year figures showing a turnround from a £52,000 surplus to a deficit of £700,000, struck at this time after exceptional charges of £469,000.

In view of the losses, the directors are not recommending any dividend for the year, a single 1p net per 10p share was paid in respect of the previous 12 months.

Mr John Tilbrook, deputy chairman and chief executive, says however, that he is not at all discouraged by the results which are very much in line with the board's expectations.

The year just ended has borne the full cost of the restructuring of Tandem Shoes, he states, whereas the trading benefits will not be seen until the second half of the current year.

Now that the restructuring of Tandem Shoes has been almost completed, efforts are being concentrated on improving the trading performance of that subsidiary. A programme of shop modernisations is under way and the merchandising policy is being reviewed.

The restructuring of Tandem Shoes has involved the closure (or sale as going concerns) of 58 of the group's 162 shops. The numbers employed at the retail head office have been reduced from over 150 to under 100. Short-term borrowings have been cut from £1.7m at January 31 1981 to less than £0.7m one year later and will be reduced further as vacated properties are sold.

Group turnover for the year edged up from £14.05m to £14.55m, while trading losses—before exceptional items—came to £231,000 (£52,000 profits). Retailing sales were £11.6m (£11.77m) and losses £305,000 (£129,000 profits), and manufacturing sales were £2.95m (£2.28m) and profits £74,000 (£77,000 losses).

After all charges, loss for the year emerged at £889,000, against £58,000 profits previously. Extraordinary debits increased from £2,000 to £189,000. A tax credit in 1980-81 added £81,000 and the dividend for that year absorbed £73,000.

Stated loss per 10p share was 9.8p (1.8p earnings).

Better trend at Samuelson Film

FIRST HALF 1981-82 profits of Samuelson Film Service, supplier of equipment and services to the film and television industries, have improved from £299,000 to £353,000.

The company's interests in France and Australia have fared well throughout the period and the overseas companies are making a significant contribution to group profits. Between them they accounted for over half of the profit, the directors report. Revenues from rental equipment business in the UK showed a small decline.

While the seasonal effect of the Christmas/New Year break continued to be very pronounced, they say that the second half saw a "considerable recovery in the overall level of activity relative to that in the same months of the preceding trading period."

This improvement has been fully maintained in the first weeks of the current year.

As last year, the group proposes to recommend the payment of a single dividend, the amount of which will be decided when the full results for 1981-82 are known. Last year this payment was 8.77p, paid from profits of £283,000. In 1979-80 profits had dropped from £674,000 to £80,000.

The group has completed arrangements to change the name of the parent company to Samuelson Group. A new subsidiary to be known as Samuelson Film Service London is being incorporated and will take over the day to day operation of the camera equipment rental business in the UK.

Chesterfield Properties at £4.3m

TAXABLE income for 1981 at Chesterfield Properties rose from £3.31m to £4.31m. The dividend has been raised from 6p to 7.25p with an increased final of 4.25p.

Earnings per 25p share were higher at 10.43p compared with 8.22p.

Turnover improved from £5.55m to £7.33m and income from completed properties and other activities was ahead from £4.16m to £5.39m.

The directors say that rental income includes a full year's contribution from developments at Rugby, Wembley and Heston, which were completed during 1980. Property investment improved from £4.88m to £5.54m.

SPAIN

April 23	Price %	+ or −
Banco Bilbao	349	
Banco Central	341	
Banco Exterior	305	
Banco Hispano	314	
Banco Ind. Cat.	110	
Banco Santander	330	
Banco Urquijo	202	
Banco Vizcaya	363	
Banco Zaragoza	246	
Dragados	154	
Espanola Zinc	68	+2
Fecsa	62.5	
Gal. Preciados	38.5	
Hidrola	63.2	+0.2
Iberduero	56	−0.5
Petroleos	90.2	+0.2
Petroliber	99	
Sogefisa	7.5	
Telefonica	70	
Union Elect.	63.7	−0.3

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and deals

Great Universal Stores made *agreed bid* for **Empire Stores** (Bradford) valuing the catalogue mail order group, which is the smallest of the five principle mail order companies, at £37m. The terms of the offer, which follow a week of negotiation, are one GUS A *share* plus 186p cash for every six Empire shares.

John Menzies, the stationery and newspaper distribution concern, launched a dawn raid and followed with a full bid for **Lonsdale Universal**, the office equipment group. **Menzies** acquired 11.22 per cent of the Lonsdale equity at 60p per share and extended an offer at that price for the outstanding shares. The offer values Lonsdale at £5.6m, but news of the moves prompted **British Printing and Communication Corporation** to acquire 10.25 per cent of the Lonsdale equity at an undisclosed price. Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of BPCC, stated that his company intended to assist Lonsdale in remaining independent should it wish to.

Britannia Arrow launched a £15.3m counter bid for **General and Commercial Investment Trust** based on the latter's net asset value. The offer tops a £13.8m bid by **Refuge Assurance** agreed with G and C last week, and Refuge has declared that it has no intention of increasing its offer.

A counter-bid of £192,000, or 20p per share, for **Speedwell Gear Case**, loss-making sheet-metal engineer, was launched by **Lathkill Securities**. This compares with an earlier offer worth £144,000 from **Astra Industrial Group**. The latter agreed to sell its near-25 per cent stake in Speedwell and to buy subsidiary Speedwell Engineering *for £150,000*.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price before bid	Value of bid £m's**	Bidder
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.					
Capseals	50*§	50	45	2.43	Sonoco
Cawoods	303§§	290	263	146.75	Redland
CCP North Sea	224	217	145††	17.56	Tricentrol
Empire Stores	113§§	106	92††	36.89	GUS
Federated Land	175*	171	142	18.03	BSC Pnsn. Funds
General & Comm.	286‡‡‡	250	235	15.32	Britannia Arrow
General & Comm.	263‡‡	250	224	14.06	Refuge Ass.
Grant Bros.¶¶	190*	186	179	2.28	Jadepoint
Heron Motor Grp.	34*§	32	23	4.33	Heron Corp.
Lancaster (D. M.)	27½*	26	28	4.38	Intasun
Lonsdale Unversl.	60*	66	42	5.39	Menzies (J.)
Moran (C.) Group	20*	21††	21††	3.47	Mr C. Moran
Normand Electrl.	*60§§*	53	41††	5.40	*Henderson (P. C.)*
Speedwell Gear Case	20*	23	14	0.19	Lathkill
Tunnel Hldgs.¶¶	587§	545	565	134.50	RTZ

* All cash offer. † Cash alternative. ‡ Partial bid. § For capital not already held. ** Based on April 23 1982. †† At suspension. ‡‡ Estimated. §§ Shares and cash. ¶¶ Unconditional.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Earnings* per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
Biddle Holdings	Dec	1,510	(1,350)	21.6	(20.4)	8.0	(8.0)
Black (A & C)	Dec	122	(68)L	11.7	(1.1)	5.39	(2.0)
Bodycote Intl.	Dec	820	(1,080)	9.0	(8.8)	4.0	(4.0)
Boustead	Dec	1,420	(2,140)	1.3	(2.2)	1.25	(1.25)
Brammall (C. D.)	Dec	2,110	(1,670)	25.1	(24.9)	6.0	(5.55)
Concord Rotaflex	Dec	1,080	(1,240)L	8.6	(—)	2.0	(0.1)
Cory (Horace)	Dec	206	(311)	2.0	(2.8)	1.1	(1.3)
Currys Group	Jan	11,270	(12,270)	18.8	(22.8)	4.95	(4.5)
Cussins Property	Dec	1,250	(455)	15.6	(7.5)	9.5	(9.0)
Danish Bacon	Dec	580	(268)L	12.0	(—)	3.5	(3.5)
Dares Estates	Dec	853	(348)	2.8	(1.5)	1.25	(1.13)
Delta Group	*Jan*	*6,200*	(6,100)	0.9	(6.2)	3.64	(3.64)
Duncan Goodricke	Dec	675	(675)	31.7	(29.4)	12.0	(12.0)
Dunlop Holdings	Dec	nil	(10,000)	—	(—)	4.0	(4.0)
EIS Group	Dec	2,820	(2,210)	18.8	(19.2)	4.5	(4.15)
Empire Stores	Jan	2,420	(5,610)	5.6	(10.4)	2.55	(5.1)
Fogarty (E.)	Dec	1,320	(1,550)	6.3	(14.7)	4.02	(4.02)
Greens Econmsr.	Dec	2,820	(1,870)	22.5	(15.1)	5.75	(4.93)
Haden	Dec	7,680	(6,240)	30.1	(26.5)	7.5	(6.25)
Hamilton Oil	Dec	13,170	(18,870)	12.9	(18.4)	1.0	(—)
Harris Queensway	Dec	10,460	(6,450)	10.0	(7.3)	4.33	(4.0)
Harrison Cowley	Dec	520	(924)	4.9	(10.5)	3.85	(3.85)
Hawker Siddeley	Dec	121,100	(113,000)	40.1	(35.2)	9.3	(8.2)
Headlam Sims	Dec	474	(300)	7.0	(10.3)	2.6	(0.98)
Henriques (A.)	Dec	36	(137)	1.2	(2.4)	1.5	(1.5)
Hestair	Jan	1,640	(733)	4.3	(1.9)	2.0	(1.0)
Laporte Inds.	Jan	15,210	(11,700)	10.8	(5.5)	7.0	(7.0)
Lamont Holdings	Dec	461	(424)	3.6	(3.3)	1.2	(1.1)
Lawrence (W.)	Dec	1,840	(1,340)	33.2	(23.9)	8.25	(7.0)
Lndn. Advertising	Dec	318	(261)	1.1	(0.8)	0.15	(0.1)
Marshall (Thos.)	Dec	864	(847)	11.3	(11.2)	2.8	(2.78)
Menzies (John)	Jan	*9,430*	(7,660)	28.2	(21.8)	4.5	(3.75)
Owen Owen	Jan	220L	(2,620)	6.3	(26.6)	3.0	(4.25)
Perry (Harold)	Dec	3,720	(3,420)	13.4	(11.4)	3.75	(3.5)
Photax	Dec	409	(384)	13.5	(13.8)	3.5	(3.5)
RMC Group	Dec	41,668	(46,610)	26.9	(29.8)	9.5	(9.0)
Rush & Tomkins	Dec	1,710	(795)L	12.3	(—)	4.25	(3.75)
Silvermines	Dec	3,300†	(1,800)†	20.6	(4.8)	3.5	(3.0)
Spear & Jackson	Jan	384	(328)	7.1	(6.7)	6.58	(6.58)
Steel Brothers	Dec	7,810	(5,590)	42.8	(28.4)	8.45	(4.85)
Streeters Gdlmng.	Dec	215	(215)	2.9	(2.9)	—	(—)
Sun Life Assur.	Dec	6,470‡	(4,720)‡	11.8	(8.4)	11.0	(8.25)
Tate of Leeds	Dec	611	(391)	44.5	(32.8)	1.25	(1.25)
Tilbury Group	Dec	2,180	(629)L	81.8	(—)	25.0	(22.38)
United Friendly	Dec	3,130	(2,790)	12.2	(10.7)	8.5	(6.25)
United Parcels	Jan	6,050	(5,040)	15.8	(14.4)	4.5	(3.5)
Websters Group	Dec	1,330	(820)	7.1	(7.2)	2.5	(2.3)
Welbeck Invs.	Dec	410	(623)	6.4	(10.9)	2.0	(1.85)
Western Motor	*Dec*	487L	(316)L	—	(—)	—	(—)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim dividends* per share (p)	
Hglnd. Electronics	Oct	38	(87)L	—	(—)
Linread	Jan	150	(242)L	—	(—)
Low (William)	Mar	1,050	(836)	2.1	(2.1)
McKechnie Bros.	Jan	5,030	(4,140)	2.0	(2.0)
Smiths Industries	Jan	11,170	(9,970)	4.0	(3.7)
Samuel Props.	Dec	1,540	(1,110)	1.3	(1.2)
Spencer Gears	Dec	195	(54)	0.3	(0.25)
Wade Potteries	Jan	52	(218)	0.5	(0.5)

(Figures in parentheses are for the corresponding period.)
* Dividends shown net except where otherwise stated. † In IE. ‡ Profits after tax. L Loss.

Scrip Issue

Tilbury Group—One for two.

Rights Issues

Hallam Sleigh and Cheston—Is raising £525,000 by way of a three for two rights issue at 10p per share.
Steel Brothers Holdings—Is raising £4.73m by way of a one for four rights issue at 170p per share.
Wm. Low—Is raising £3.353m by way of a rights issue on the basis of one for three at 145p per share.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Andre de Brett—Is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market by way of a private placing of 25 per cent of its shares at 60p per share.
CASS—Is joining the Unlisted Securities Market via a placing of 950,000 shares at 105p each.
Continental Microwave—Intends to join the Unlisted Securities Market following a placing of 248,000 shares at 260p per share.
Druck *Holdings—Makes its debut on the Unlisted* Securities Market next week. The company is placing 1.25m shares at 130p.
Nabisco Brands—Is seeking a London listing.
Oilfield Inspection Services—Is planning to come to the Unlisted Securities *Market following* a placing of around £2m.
G. Ruddle—Plan to join the Unlisted Securities Market by way of a placing.

APPOINTMENTS

Changes at Bankers Trust

BANKERS TRUST INTERNATIONAL, the London-based merchant banking subsidiary of Bankers Trust Company, has made the following changes: Mr Bick Dietz, who has been running B. F. Goodrick's worldwide acquisition and divestiture activities, has become director, mergers and acquisitions; Mr Randy Dumas, recently vice-president corporate finance with Rotan Mosle, Houston, Texas, has become director responsible for marketing to corporate names with a major emphasis on the energy sector; Mr Victor Snchar, former head of international corporate finance at Irving Trust has become director, marketing, in the corporate sector; Mr Karl Ziegler, who was head of loan syndication at FNBC, has become director, marketing, for the Middle East Africa region; and Mr Rand Selig (Tokyo) and Mr Allen Wheat (New York), who are responsible in these two centres for Bankers Trust's international capital markets and arbitrage activities, have been appointed non-executive directors.

★

BAIRD CORPORATION of Bedford, Massachusetts, U.S., has appointed Mr B. J. F. Howard to the board of its UK subsidiary, Baird UK Holdings, parent company of Baird-Atomic and R. A. Stephen. Mr Howard is chairman of Phicom and a director of Cambridge Electronic Industries, Fothergill and Harvey and Chiltern Radio.

★

Mr Peter Dodd has been appointed an executive director of CAR CARE PLAN (SECURITIES DIVISION). Mr Michael Partridge has been appointed sales director of Car Care Plan.

★

Mr P. J. Neill, Mr R. A. Edwards and Mr J. C. D. Goldschmidt will be leaving the partnership of KITCAT & AITKENSON, stockbrokers, on April 29 and Mr D. A. Cottingwood and Mr T. J. Cook will be joining the partnership on April 30.

★

Mr Christopher Phillips has been appointed production director of HORSELL GRAPHIC INDUSTRIES, a Horsell Group subsidiary.

★

Mr Ian Faulconer Heathcoat Grant has been appointed a director of FIRST CHARLOTTE ASSETS TRUST. Mr Grant is managing director of Glenmoriston Estates and a director of Japan Assets Trust.

★

Mr T. W. Moorse and Mr J. W. H. Bolton have been appointed directors of F. BOLTON GROUP. BOLTON MARINE SERVICES, a direct subsidiary, has appointed Mr R. Bartlett its chairman. At THE BOLTON STEAM SHIPPING COMPANY, the following have been appointed to the board Mr Tel Arison, Mr M. M. Arison, Mr W. D. Parkhurst, Mr H. Levinson. Mr M. A. Muller has been appointed managing director. Mr P. B. Arthur has been appointed chairman of BOLTON MARITIME MANAGEMENT and Mr M. A. Muller has been appointed *managing* director. *Mr M. A.* Muller has joined the board of NOSIRA SHIPPING and has been appointed managing director. *Mr J. M. Harrison* has been appointed to the board of F. BOLTON INTERNATIONAL.

★

Mr J. P. O'Brien has joined HILLALDAM COBURN as marketing director. He was marketing director of Glynwed Bathroom and Kitchen Products.

★

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL BANK, London branch, has appointed Mr Daniel T. Wall, general manager, a senior vice-president. He remains general manager of the London branch.

★

Mr Derek Millard a director of Finance Corporation for Industry has been appointed to the board of COLE GROUP in a non-executive capacity.

★

Mr Tony Richardson, the former senior director of Computer Resources, has been appointed marketing director of UNITED COMPUTING'S UK operation.

★

Mr Chris Buckman has been appointed managing director of SAMBRON, a wholy owned subsidiary of Sambron SA of France. Mr Buckman will take up his post on April 29 relinquishing his position of export manager of Coles Cranes, a member of the Acrow Group.

★

Mr David F. McCurrach retired from his directorship of the ALLIANCE TRUST following the annual *meeting*.

★

Tuan Haji Mohd. Desa Pachi has been appointed a director of SIME DARBY BERHAD.

★

Mr Charles Challinger has been appointed managing director of MECMAN. Mecman is the British subsidiary of AB Mecman, Stockholm, Sweden.

★

Mr Colin Bourne has been appointed publisher of TATLER MAGAZINE by Conde Nast Publications, the company's owners. Mr Bourne was Vogue's advertising director.

★

Mrs Avril Poole will become chief nursing officer of the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY on October 1 in succession to Dame Phyllis Friend who is retiring.

★

M Roderick Travers has retired from PETER BROTHERHOOD and Mr Barrie Mee has resigned.

U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCK 24/4/82

Statistics provided by DATASTREAM International

Name and description	Size (£m)	Current price	Terms*	Conversion dates⊕	Flat yield	Red. yield	Premium† Current	Premium† Range‡	Income Equ.§	Income Conv.¶	Income Div.♡	Cheap(+) Dear(−)◇ Current
British Land 12pc Cv. 2002	9.60	282.50	333.3	80-97	4.2	1.6	0.9	− 2 to 4	31.8	83.8	18.6	+17.7
Hanson Trust 6½pc Cv. 88-93	3.02	176.00	114.3	76-83	3.7		1.3	−50 to 5	8.4	3.1	− 3.1	− 4.4
Hanson Trust 9½pc Cv. 01-06	150.59	115.00	71.4	85-01	8.5	8.3	5.9	2 to 14	85.5	74.0	−10.6	−16.8
Slough Estates 10pc Cv. 87-90	5.31	245.50	187.5	78-84	4.1		− 0.8	− 8 to 5	17.6	18.0	0.2	+ 1.0
Slough Estates 8pc Cv. 91-94	24.88	114.00	78.0	80-91	7.2	6.3	10.7	3 to 15	31.0	45.4	14.0	+ 3.3

* Number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. ‡ Three-month range. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is summed from present time until income on ordinary shares is greater than income on £100 nominal of convertible or the final conversion date whichever is earlier. Income is assumed to grow at 10 per cent per annum and is present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ¶ Income on £100 of convertible. Income is summed until conversion and present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ♡ This is income of the convertible less income of the underlying equity expressed as per cent of the value of the underlying equity. ◇ The difference between the premium and income difference expressed as per cent of the value of underlying equity. + is an indication of relative cheapness. − is an indication of relative dearness. ⊕ Second date is assumed date of conversion. This is not necessarily the last date of conversion.

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	13 %	Grindlays Bank	‡13 %
Allied Irish Bank	13 %	■ Guinness Mahon	13 %
American Express Bk.	13 %	■ Hambros Bank	13 %
Amro Bank	13 %	Heritable & Gen. Trust	13 %
Henry Ansbacher	13 %	■ Hill Samuel	§13 %
Arbuthnot Latham	13 %	C. Hoare & Co.	†13 %
Associates Cap. Corp.	13 %	Hongkong & Shanghai	13 %
Banco de Bilbao	13 %	Kingsnorth Trust Ltd.	14 %
BCCI	13 %	Knowsley & Co. Ltd.	13½ %
Bank Hapoalim BM	13 %	Lloyds Bank	13 %
Bank Leumi (UK) plc	13 %	Mallinhall Limited	13 %
Bank of Cyprus	13 %	Edward Manson & Co.	14 %
Bank Street Sec. Ltd.	14 %	Midland Bank	13 %
Bank of N.S.W.	13 %	■ Samuel Montagu	13 %
Banque Belge Ltd.	13 %	■ Morgan Grenfell	13 %
Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise S.A.	13½ %	National Westminster	13 %
Barclays Bank	13 %	Norwich General Trust	13 %
Beneficial Trust Ltd.	14 %	P. S. Refson & Co.	13 %
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	14 %	Roxburghe Guarantee	13½ %
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	13 %	E. S. Schwab	13 %
■ Brown Shipley	13 %	Slavenburg's Bank	13 %
Canada Perm't Trust	13½ %	Standard Chartered	‖13 %
Castle Court Trust Ltd.	13½ %	Trade Dev. Bank	13 %
Cavendish G'ty T'st Ltd.	15½ %	Trustee Savings Bank	13 %
Cayzer Ltd.	13 %	TCB Ltd.	13 %
Cedar Holdings	13 %	United Bank of Kuwait	13 %
■ Charterhouse Japhet	13 %	Whiteaway Laidlaw	13½ %
Choulartons	13½ %	Williams & Glyn's	13 %
Citibank Savings	¶12½ %	Wintrust Secs. Ltd.	13 %
Clydesdale Bank	13 %	Yorkshire Bank	13 %
C. E. Coates	14 %		
Consolidated Credits	13 %		
Co-operative Bank	*13 %		
Corinthian Secs.	13 %		
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	13 %		
Duncan Lawrie	13 %		
Eagil Trust	13 %		
E.T. Trust	13 %		
Exeter Trust Ltd.	14 %		
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	15½ %		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	15½ %		
Robert Fraser	14 %		

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee.
* 7-day deposits 10%. 1-month 10.25%. Short term £8,000/12 month 12.5%.
† 7-day deposits on sums of: under £10,000 10¼%, £10,000 up to £50,000 11%, £50,000 and over 11½%.
‡ Call deposits £1,000 and over 10%.
‖ 21-day deposits over £1,000 11¼%.
§ Demand deposits 10¼%.
¶ Mortgage base rate.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

1981-82 High	1981-82 Low	Company	Price	Change	Gross div.(p)	Yield %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully taxed
130	100	Ass. Brit. Ind. CULS	130	+ 1	10.0	7.7	—	—
75	62	Airsprung	73	—	4.7	6.4	11.6	16.0
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	44	—	4.3	9.5	3.7	8.3
205	187	Bardon Hill	200	—	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8
107	100	CCL 11pc Conv. Pref.	107	—	15.7	14.7	—	—
104	61	Deborah Services	62	—	6.0	8.7	3.1	5.8
131	97	Frank Horsell	129	+ 1	6.4	5.0	11.5	23.9
83	39	Frederick Parker	76	+ 1	6.4	8.4	3.9	7.4
78	46	George Blair	54	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind. Precision Castings	96	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
109	100	Isis Conv. Pref.	109	—	15.7	14.4	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	99	—	7.0	7.1	3.1	7.0
[illegible]	103	James Burrough	113	—	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4
334	240	Robert Jenkins	244	+ 2	31.3	12.8	3.4	8.6
64	51	Scruttons "A"	64	—	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1
222	159	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	8.5
15	10	Twinlock Ord.	13½	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinlock 15pc ULS	80	—	15.0	18.6	—	—
44	[illegible]	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6
103	73	Walter Alexander	80	+ 1	6.4	8.0	5.3	8.3
263	212	W. S. Yeates	231	—	14.5	6.3	8.0	12.1

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146.

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (*telephone number in parentheses*)	Annual gross interest	Interest payable	Minimum sum	Life of bond
	%		£	Year
Knowsley (051-548 6555)	13½	½-year	1,000	4-5

THE TRING HALL USM INDEX
119.2 (+0.6)
close of business 23/4/82
BASE DATE 10/11/80 100
Tel.: 01-638 1591

LADBROKE INDEX
Close 565-570 (unchanged)

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

Series		May Vol.	May Last	Aug. Vol.	Aug. Last	Nov. Vol.	Nov. Last	Stock
GOLD C	$350	80	17	4	34	9	48	$352.50
GOLD C	$375	90	8	23	24	—	—	"
GOLD C	$400	4	4.80	31	15 A	—	—	"
GOLD C	$425	—		3	7 B	—	—	"
GOLD P	$395	10	5.50	—	—	—	—	"
GOLD P	$350	—	—	1	18 A	—	—	"
13¼ NL 81 87-91								
C	F.102	43	9.70	—	—	—	—	F.115
C	F.110	—	—	10	4.40	—	—	"
C	F.112.50	110	2.10	—	—	17	3.10	"
C	F.112	—	—	270	1.50	—	—	"
10¼ NL 80 86-95								
C	F.100	150	3.70	50	3.90	—	—	F.105.70
C	F.102.50	15	1.50	900	2.30	—	—	"
11¼ NL 82 88-92								
C	F.105	—	—	—	—	13	1.90	F.104.90
C	F.107.50	—	—	—	—	100	0.80	"
		July		Oct.		Jan.		
ABN C	F.300	—	—	—	—	10	11	F.303
AKZO C	F.25	65	5.20	—	—	—	—	F.30.30
AKZO C	F.27.50	46	3.20	12	3.40	19	5.40	"
AKZO C	F.30	49	1.90	39	1.90	90	2.60	"
AKZO C	F.32.50	60	0.60	45	1.10	30	1.70	"
AKZO P	F.30	—	—	91	2	—	—	"
AMRO C	F.50	274	4	19	4.30 B	—	—	F.53.40
AMRO C	F.55	21	0.80	25	1.20	95	1.60 B	"
HEIN C	F.50	28	11	—	—	—	—	F.60.70
HEIN C	F.55	94	6.70	56	5	—	—	"
HEIN C	F.60	20	2 A	55	3.20	—	—	"
HEIN P	F.55	23	1.50	20	1.90	—	—	"
HEIN P	F.60	20	3 B	—	—	—	—	"
HOOG C	F.17.50	—	—	—	—	10	2	F.17.10
KLM C	F.100	24	10	—	—	—	—	F.104.80
KLM C	F.110	62	6	15	9.80	—	—	"
KLM C	F.120	67	3 A	65	5.20	17	7.50	"
KLM P	F.90	—	—	16	3	—	—	"
KLM P	F.100	41	3.50	—	—	—	—	"
KLM P	F.110	25	9	—	—	—	—	"
NEDL C	F.120	24	4.50	—	—	—	—	F.121.50
NATN C	F.110	—	—	10	7	—	—	F.117
NATN C	F.115	33	3.10	—	—	10	4	"
NATN P	F.115	10	2.30	—	—	—	—	"
PHIL C	F.20	80	5.20	—	—	—	—	F.25.10
PHIL C	F.22.50	10	2.80	—	—	—	—	"
PHIL C	F.25	197	1.10	61	1.70	25	2.20	"
PHIL C	F.27.50	54	0.40	105	0.50	157	1	"
PHIL P	F.25	—	—	63	1.40	—	—	"
PHIL P	F.27.50	—	—	—	—	10	3.50 B	"
RO C	F.80	60	13.10	51	13.50	—	—	F.93.90
RO C	F.90	343	4.40	88	5.30	26	6 A	"
RO C	F.100	221	1 A	34	1.60	50	2.80	"
RO P	F.80	—	—	65	1.60	—	—	"
RO P	F.90	15	3.80	11	4.50	—	—	"
UNIL C	F.160	19	1.50	11	3	—	—	F.158.20
		May		Aug.		Nov.		
BOEI C	$20	—	—	20	2⅛	—	—	$20⅜

TOTAL VOLUME IN CONTRACTS: 4535
A=Asked B=Bid C=Call P=Put

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wall St extends rally: up 3

THURSDAY'S RALLY was extended on Wall Street yesterday, buoyed by the report that Consumer Prices declined 0.3 per cent in March, the first monthly decline since August 1965.

By mid-day the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up a further 3.04 to 856.16, making 6 rise of 12.74 on the week, while the NYSE All Common Index, at $67.91, rose 42 cents on the day and 65 cents on the week. Advances led declines by an eight-to-three majority in a volume of 44.45m (39.07m) shares.

Analysts attributed the large volume to increased activity by Institutional investors, which are sitting on large cash positions.

The Stock Market is also still reacting to OPEC's announcement Wednesday that oil production has fallen below the Official Ceiling. The news caused a run-up in Energy stocks Thursday.

But prices did ease from early levels, and analysts said concerns may be reasserting themselves about the lack of Budget compromise between the White House and Congress.

The biggest gainers, and some of the most active issues, continued to be the Oil and Oil Services stocks. On the active list, Exxon rose $⅝ to $28¼, Superior Oil $¾ to $32⅞ and Atlantic Richfield $⅜ to $40½.

Also higher were Standard Oil California, up $1 to $31¼, Phillips $½ to $32¼ and Schlumberger $1 to $45⅞.

Cray Research slid $4 to $25¼, despite reporting higher earnings. Datapoint fell $1¼ to $19¼.

Motors benefited from an increase in mid-April car sales, with General Motors up $⅜ to $43⅞ and Ford $¼ to $22¼.

News of higher earnings boosted Foxboro by $1 to $33⅞, Rowan Cos $⅜ to $12 and Browning-Ferris $⅝ to $32⅛.

THE AMERICAN SE Market Value Index put on 1.35 to 274.74, for a net rise of 0.59 on the week. Trading volume expanded 446,000 shares to 3.797m.

Bolt Beranek fell $1⅛ to $17⅞, despite reporting higher earnings.

Closing prices for North America were not available for this edition.

Canada

Markets were narrowly irregular around mid-day yesterday, when the Toronto Composite Index was off 0.4 at 1587.5.

The Gold Share Index rose 35.8 to 2269.5, while Metals and Minerals firmed 2.9 to 1417.0 and Oil and Gas 1.5 to 2788.8. But Utilities lost 4.84 to 199.57, Papers 1.09 to 147.24 and Banks 0.25 to 299.36.

Turbo Resources gained 9 cents to $1.44, although it decided to omit its semi-annual dividend.

Imperial Oil shed $¼ to $22⅞ on lower first quarter earnings.

Tokyo

Share prices, led by Blue Chips, rose over a wide front with sentiment encouraged by the overnight upturn on Wall Street and a revival of Foreign buying.

The Market Average gained 38.07 to 7,333.94 after active trading of 450m (340m) shares.

Precisions, Motors, Steels, Light Electricals and Drugs were in good demand, followed by Textiles, Chemicals and Machineries. Issues related to Public Spending Programmes eased on profit-taking.

The recent downtrend in U.S. interest rates also aided sentiment but initial gains were pared slightly towards the close in reaction to the continued rise of the market over the week.

Sanrio, newly listed on the Second Market yesterday, did not trade with the bid Y2,230.

Hong Kong

Stocks closed off their best levels due to heavy profit-taking near the close, but still showed significant gains. The Hang Seng Index rose 15.71 to 1,235.84, up 52.36 on the week.

Trading revived on Institutional buying, which began on Thursday after a fortnight's consolidation, prompting local investors to follow suit.

Australia

A boost in overseas investor interest prompted the strongest performance of 1982 with Mines and Oils faring best.

The All Ordinaries Index, up 9 points at 498.9, posted its fourth consecutive rise to reach its highest point since February 23, when it stood at 501.

Brokers said there had been a sharp increase in London investor buying of Metals, and volume increased.

Germany

Firmer in quiet trading as markets continued to have a generally positive underlying tone.

Degussa put on DM 1.9 to 225, although first-half turnover fell 24 per cent.

Banks rose with the firmer Bond Market.

Domestic Bond issues, Mark-Denominated Eurobonds and Eurodollar Bonds were up slightly on lively trading.

Yields of Domestic Bonds declined to 8.75 per cent for 10-year, 8.85 per cent for five-year issues and 9.10 per cent for one-year Bonds.

Switzerland

Irregularly higher on renewed optimism about a further interest rate decline.

The recent cut in Customer Time Deposits by the four major Swiss Banks contributed to the underlying firmness, with volume clearly above Thursday's levels.

On the Bond Market, recently issued Domestic Bonds added a further ¼ percentage point, while demand eased for Swiss Franc Foreign Bonds.

Chemicals were featured in the generally higher Industrial sector. All shares of Ciba-Geigy were in good demand.

Sulzer rose on Thursday's Press Conference.

Among Foreign shares, Dollar stocks were mostly above overnight New York closing prices. In Oils, Norsk Hydro continued firm.

Amsterdam

Firm over a broad front in reasonably active trading.

Sentiment was helped by hopes for continuing lower interest rates.

Boskalis, the troubled construction company, was beginning to recover last week's losses.

AKZO were firm on news that it expects more or less unchanged earnings this year.

Singapore

Share prices closed narrowly mixed on some profit-taking after a slightly higher opening in selective moderate trading.

Hotels, Properties and the Second Trading Section were also mixed, where traded, in line with the general trend, while Commodities were steady.

The market is very much looking like "rolling over".

Johannesburg

Gold shares advanced in moderate trading as the bullion price rose to over $350.

Two Industrial stocks stole the limelight.

Hanhill Industries, holding company of the small explosives manufacturer National Process Industries, jumped from 145 cents to 230 cents. The Government announced earlier that an Exclusive Supply Agreement for explosives between AECI, off 5 cents at 705 cents, the country's largest chemicals producer, and the Chamber of Mines is to be terminated after an Official Anti-Trust Watchdog had criticised the contract as a restrictive business practice contrary to the public interest.

The other feature was Television and Electrical Holdings, Tedelex, a Domestic Appliance and Electronic Equipment Manufacturer. Its shares shot up from 550 cents to 625 on rumours that a takeover bid is imminent. The identity of the suitor is unknown.

Indices

NEW YORK —DOW JONES

	April 29	April 21	April 20	April 12	April 16	April 15	1982 High	1982 Low	Since Compil't'n High	Since Compil't'n Low
● Industr'ls	855.12	848.42	840.88	848.08	848.42	858.61	882.52 (4/1)	790.47 (8/8)	1051.70 (11/1/73)	41.22 (2/7/32)
H'me Bnds.	88.15	82.09	88.09	58.13	52.06	—	00.08 (16/4)	06.07 (12/2)	—	—
Transport.	642.99	342.80	645.80	348.44	646.87	344.32	888.40 (7/1)	314.56 (8/8)	447.38 (16/4/81)	12.32 (8/7/32)
Utilities	115.74	112.52	117.65	111.80	112.27	112.15	112.27 (16/4)	103.01 (18/1)	165.32 (20/4/69)	10.0 (28/4/42)
Trading Vol 000's	54,470	67,820	54,616	50,470	88,888	48,890	—	—	—	—

● Days high 867.02 low 843.80

Ind. div. yield %	April 19	April 12	April 2	Year ago (Approx)
	6.61	6.61	6.64	5.51

STANDARD AND POORS

	April 29	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 16	April 15	1982 High	1982 Low	Since Compil't'n High	Since Compil't'n Low
Indust'ls	130.12	128.54	128.84	128.65	129.77	129.24	137.28 (4/1)	110.41 (8/8)	160.96 (28/11/80)	0.02 (30/6/32)
Composite	117.20	115.72	118.44	116.70	116.81	118.86	122.74 (4/1)	107.34 (2.0)	140.62 (20/11/80)	4.407 (1/6/32)

	April 22	April 15	April 8	Year ago (approx.)
Ind. div. yield %	5.72	6.71	6.73	4.36
Ind. P/E Ratio	7.75	7.77	7.81	10.62
Long Gov. Bond yield	12.92	13.11	13.34	13.07

NY. S.E. ALL COMMON

Apr. 22	Apr. 21	Apr. 20	Apr. 19	1982 High	1982 Low
67.49	66.71	66.55	67.21	71.20 (4/1)	62.62 (12/3)

Rises and Falls

	Apr. 22	Apr. 21	Apr. 20
Issues Traded	1,876	1,871	1,893
Rises	943	858	370
Falls	457	688	914
Unchanged	471	441	409
New Highs	67	41	39
New Lows	17	23	18

MONTREAL

	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 12	1982 High	1982 Low
Industrials	267.45	287.08	268.84	288.34	852.78 (4.1)	270.46 (16.8)
Combined	271.91	272.44	275.44	274.88	316.00 (4.1)	259.08 (16.5)
TORONTO Composite	1589.81	1585.91	1586.31	1604.50	1956.3 (4.1)	1587.8 (16.5)

NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS

Thursday	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day		Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
Sears Roe.	1,322,400	20	+ ¾	IBM	645,800	64⅛	+ ½
Exxon	909,400	28⅝	+ ¾	Union Oil	621,800	33⅞	+ ⅞
Std. Oil Ind.	809,600	41⅞	+2¼	Aetna Life	618,000	43⅞	+ ⅜
Wendy's	715,200	18¼	+1⅛	Fannie Mae	617,200	10⅛	+ ½
Schlumb.	711,400	44⅝	+2⅝	Texaco	612,600	29¾	+ ⅜

	Apr. 23	Apr. 22	Apr. 21	Apr. 20	1982 High	1982 Low
AUSTRALIA All Ord. (1/1/80)	498.9	490.1	482.6	477.4	595.8 (4/1)	465.8 (10/3)
Metal & Mins. (1/1/80)	358.1	359.2	351.7	344.0	425.1 (6/1)	322.2 (2/4)
AUSTRIA Credit Aktien (2/1/62)	52.49	52.54	52.38	52.32	90.98 (4/1)	52.18 (16/4)
BELGIUM Belgian SE (31/12/63)	99.27	98.53	98.52	99.24	102.48 (6/4)	88.42 (20/1)
DENMARK Copenhagen SE (1/1/73)	129.48	120.31	120.36	120.81	126.22 (25/2)	112.90 (9/3)
FRANCE CAC General (29/12/61)	107.00	106.9	106.49	107.00	107.6 (23/4)	88.0 (4/1)
Ind Tendance (31/12/81)	119.20	116.7	116.00	117.2	124.0 (16/2)	97.7 (4/1)
GERMANY FAZ-Aktien (31/12/58)	238.10	237.64	200.75	236.60	239.45 (6/4)	216.65 (10/1)
Commerzbank (Dec 1953)	725.79	724.8	721.10	721.0	728.8 (6/4)	668.7 (12/1)
HOLLAND ANP-CBS General (1970)	93.4	92.9	92.80	91.5	93.4 (23/4)	84.0 (8/1)
ANP-CBS Indust (1970)	76.0	72.9	72.80	71.8	73.8 (6/4)	60.2 (4/1)
HONG KONG Hang Seng Bank (31/7/64)	1200.84	1220.13	(c)	1183.77	1445.52 (12/1)	1129.65 (8/3)
ITALY Banca Comm Ital. (1972)	193.36	196.85	199.06	192.73	212.80 (19/3)	161.45 (18/1)
JAPAN** Dow Average (16/5/49)	7333.94	7295.87	7260.58	7258.15	7926.08 (27/1)	6898.55 (17/3)
Tokyo New SE (4/1/68)	558.94	534.26	532.31	532.17	585.26 (27/1)	520.79 (17/3)
NORWAY Oslo SE (1/1/72)	116.87	114.11	112.91	112.27	130.53 (26/1)	108.12 (1/4)
SINGAPORE Straits Times (1966)	753.72	798.28	751.05	765.45	810.79 (9/1)	687.48 (8/3)
SOUTH AFRICA Gold (1958)	—	457.7	455.1	454.2	598.6 (5/1)	411.2 (9/3)
Industrial (1958)	—	589.3	588.7	588.5	711.7 (9/1)	903.3 (29/3)
SPAIN Madrid SE (30/12/81)	109.85	100.96	108.79	190.95	107.46 (9/2)	88.17 (6/1)
SWEDEN Jacobson & P. (1/1/58)	589.85	379.33	878.95	874.29	858.52 (22/1)	598.23 (19/4)
SWITZERLAND Swiss BankCpn. (31/12/58)	260.2	960.8	258.0	259.40	285.1 (11/1)	242.5 (11/3)
WORLD Capital Intl. (1/1/70)	—	135.6	135.0	133.0	147.2 (4/1)	129.1 (17/3)

(**) Sat April 3 Japan Dow 7,333.32. TSE 539.69.

Base values of all indices are 100 except Australia All Ordinary and Metals—500; NYSE All Common—50; Standard and Poors—10; and Toronto—1,000: the last named based on 1975. † Excluding bonds. ‡ 400 Industrials. § 400 Industrials plus 40 Utilities, 40 Financials and 20 Transports. c Closed. u Unavailable.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Harvester seeks to soften debt terms

By Our New York Staff

INTERNATIONAL harvester, the struggling truck and farm machinery maker, is asking creditor banks to soften the terms of agreement because losses are running higher then expected.

Specifically, the company wants creditors to allow its net worth to fall to $800m. Under the debt restructuring agreement negotiated at the end of last year, Harvester was supposed to stay above $1bn. The agreement covered $4.2bn in debts and set minimum liability to net worth ratios.

Harvester recently predicted that its net worth would fall below $1bn in early summer, but said it was optimistic that its creditors would grant waivers on the debt agreement.

Elf linking with Toray to build carbon fibre plant

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

ELF AQUITAINE, the French State-controlled oil group, is linking up with Toray Industries of Japan to build a joint carbon fibre manufacturing plant in France.

The capital in the new project will be split to give Elf 65 per cent and Toray 35 per cent. Although no figures for the investment have yet been given, *Elf said yesterday that it would* involve fairly beavy expenditure, some of which would be financed by the French Goveromeot.

Toray, a leading Japanese synthetic fibre company, will evidently use the plant ae a means of moving into the European market. The first production unit, which is planned to make high quality carbon fibre, will have a production capacity of 300 tonnes a year for sale throughout the EEC.

If the market justifies expansion, the two companies are planning to increase output to 600 tonnes e year, while building a polyacrylonitrile plant to provide the raw material for the carbon fibre pant.

The project, which comes withio e week of Presideot Mitterraod's official visit to Japso, is a further example of growing investment by Japanese companies in France. It illustrates the French Goveroment's keenoess to attract co-operative ventures with Japan in high technology areas, despite protectionist threats in other industries.

For Elf, the investment means a further diversification away from the oil industry into the new technology sectors where the authorities bave been urging it to expsod.

One of the most profitable companies in France, with a strong cash flow, Elf bas been ateadily moviog into the manufacturing of composite, high-performing materials designed to replace metal.

The new carbon fibre plaot will be built near Pau in the south-west of France, and is expected to create about 100 jobs.

Aluminium smelter abandoned by BHP

By Michael Thompson-Noel in Sydney

BROKEN HILL Proprietary, Australia's biggest company, has abandoned plans to build a A$600m (U.S.$631m) aluminium smelter at Lochinvar, in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales. It said the slump in the world aluminium market was the main fector.

The company said yesterday it had failed to find a new partner for the project, following the withdrawal last year of Alumax, of the U.S.

The original consortium consisted of Alumax (45 per cent) BHP (35 per cent), and a group of Japanese companies, including Mitsui, Furukawa Denko, and Toyota, with 20 per cent. BHP said it had not been able to recog- the joint venture.

Ian Perkin adds from Melbourne: BHP's decision means that no fewer than three major new smelter projects have been cancelled or deferred in the last 12 months—Lochinvar, Alcan's Kurri Kurri expansion in NSW and the same company's proposed new plant at Goodwood, Queensland.

In total, the smelter projects now cancelled would have been worth more than A$1.5bn (1982 dollars) and would bave produced more than 570,000 tonnes of aluminium metal annually.

Yet another smelter proposed for the Hunter Valley area never even reached the feasibility stage and negotiations for a massive refinery-smelter complex in Western Australia in the late 1980s/early 1990s have all but died.

Mr John Balph, chairman of Comalco, said this week that his group's 1982 profit would be below last year's A$28.4m, and warned that international companies were reassessing Australia's attractiveness for long-term investment.

He said trends in Australian labour costs, government charges, and inflation, were causing concern

Mixed interim results from Japan's securities houses

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S TOP four securities houses have produced mixed results for the half-year ended March, 1982, with three houses pushing firmly ahead and the fourth—Nomura Securities, the largest of the group making limited profits beadway.

Operating profits at Nomura fell by 16.8 per cent for the six months to Y33.1bn ($136.3m) while at the net level, earnings emerge just 1.5 per cent higher at Y19.6bn. Net profit gaine among the other three bouses raoge from 22.4 per cent for Nikko Securities to 11.7 per cent for Daiwa Securities.

Yamaichi Securities, whose operating profits rose by 21.8 per cent to Y17.43bn, increased oet profits by 19.4 per cent to Y7.85bn. Nikko saw operating profits dip by 1.5 per cent to Y20.85bn while those at Daiwa increased by 27.2 per cent to Y22.7bn.

Despite a flat stock market, Daiwa and Yamaichi posted record half-year operating profits, thanks to the strength of the bond market. In the six months, the average trading volume on the Tokyo Stock Exchanges was 22 per cent down oo the previous year, reflecting the sluggieh economy aod a deterioration of corporate business performance.

Moreover, stock market activity was led by speculative shares in the latter part of the six months which are traded mostly by small and medium-sized securities houses.

As a result, the market share for the big four hourses has been under pressure, declining to 15.4 per cent for Nomura, from 19.3 per cent in the previous year.

At the same time, commission receipts on transactions for the half year reached only 30.6 per cent of wbat Nomura achieved in the previous full year, 34.6 per cent for Nikko, 32.4 per cent for Daiwe and 36.7 per cent for Yamaichi. Valuation losses on stocks also hampered earnings among the houses.

Daiwa and Yamaichl achieved sharp gains on transactions in bonds.

Intl. Energy Bank suffers profits fall

By Our Banking Correspondent

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY Bank, the London consortium bank specialising in energy finance, has reported its first profit setback since it was established in 1973. Pre-tax profits fell by 20 per cent to £3.1m ($5.5m) in the year to end-December 1981.

The profits were lower largely due to a £1.4m provision for certain sovereign risk loans. *Total assets grew by 21* per cent to £351.4m but much of this reflected movement in exchange rates. During last year the bank's paid-up capital was increased by 50 per cent to £15m and shareholders funds now stand at £23.9m.

The bank forecasts that "non-recourse" financing, where the hank is dependent solely on a project's success, will become much more important than in the past in the context of energy financing. The reason is that a significant share of the new investment will be in the bands of medium and smaller sized companies, perhaps operating as consortia, sometimes in collaboration with national Governments.

Sharp downturn for Ashland Oil

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

ASHLAND OIL, the leeding independent U.S. oil refiner and marketer, has reported a sharp drop into loss in the secood quarter. The company suffered a net loss of $11.6m compared with a profit of $7.2m during the same period a year earlier. This translated into a loes per share of 79 cents, against a 3 cents profit. Sales, at $2.3bn, were slightly down from last year's $2.4bn.

The company said its results were barmed by what it called "chaotic conditions" in the crude oil and petroleum products markets. Refined products prices had declined during the period more rapidly than crude prices—a divergence that bit Ashland especially hard since it disposed in the late 1970s of most of its oil and gas producing properties and is almost antirely dependent on purchased crude.

Ashland expects results in the third quarter to sbow some improvement, thanks to a recovery in prices for refined petroleum products in the U.S. in recent weeks. Crude oil costs, on the other hand, are expected to remain below the levels seeo io the past quarter.

In additioo to its difficulties in the oil business, Ashland also suffered in its coal operations from harsh weather conditions and from bigh inventories in the industry. The company is a major coal producer, with output of around 6m tonnes a year. Saarbergwerke, the West German government-owned coal group, bought a 25 per cent share in Ashlaod Coal last year.

Japanese store group hit by squeeze on margins

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

DAIMARU, THE number two departmeot store group in Japan after Mitsukoshi, reports a sharp drop in profits for 1981 and forecasts a further setback during the current year.

The company has been hit by a squeeze on operating margins and heavier interest charges. As a result, net earnings bave tumbled by more than a quarter.

Net earnings went down to Y3.49bn ($14.3m) from Y4.88bn previously, despite improved sales which edged up by 3.8 per cent to Y437.43bn from Y421.35bn. Per-share earnings fell to Y15.6 from Y21.9.

Deimeru traced the net earnings drop in part to lower profit margins stemming from price cuts which the company had been forced to make to attract consumers in the present economic stagnation. Heavier interest charges also hurt the company.

The company is optimistic about the current year. It expects net earnings to go down to about Y2.8bn on sales estimated to rise to abont Y457bn. Personal spending will remain stagnant through most of this year, according to Daimaru forecasts.

Akzo sees acceptable earnings

By Our Amsterdam Correspondent

AKZO, THE Dutch Chemical group, believes it can achieve an "acceptable result" this year provided the economic recovery expected in the second half materialises.

By thie the company means a similar profit to the Fl 62m "hard profit," defined as net income on a current value basis, as in 1981.

While there are, as yet, no signs of this forecast upturn, Akzo expects that the continued improvement of its man-made fibre results and the strengthening of the company in several other areas will work to its advantage.

In 1981 Akzo made a net profit, after extraordinary items, of Fl 239m ($89.8m).

Zurich banks plan gold broker venture

BY JOHN WICKS IN ZURICH

THE ZURICH gold pool is to set up a joint venture brokerage business to strengthen its position on the international physical-gold market.

The new company, which is likely to begin operations later this year, will be owned and managed on an equal basis by the three pool banks, Swiss Bank Corporation, Union Bank of Switzerland and Credit Suisse.

A representative for the pool said yesterday that the move was intended to recover business lost after the introduction of sales tax on physical gold transactions in Switzerland at the start of 1980. Bankers had already reported a large decline in physical-gold transactions as a direct result of the tax.

At the same time, the pool banks say they bad ascertained that existing gold brokers abroad were intending to set up Swiss operations. A pool-owned broker bouse would now be set up before any large foreign incursioo into the Zurich gold trade—the traditional reserve of the Swiss banks.

The Broker company will operate from its own offices in Zurich. No branch operations are planned elsewhere in Switzerland or abroad, in the near future. In the long term, bowever, a branch outside Zurich is said by the pool "not to be out of the qnestion."

VNU takes U.S. stakes

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

VNU, the Dutch publishing group, bas taken a "considerable minority bolding" in two specialised U.S. publishers, disclosure and Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, both of Bethesde, Maryland.

The two companies, which have the same management bave a combined turnover of $15-20m and employ 200 people.

Disclosure collects information about the 11,000 companies quoted on U.S. stock exchanges and supplies it to customers, including the Securities and Exchange Commission. Cambridge publishes scientific abstracts in the fields of microbiology, biochemistry, zoology and ecology.

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

COMMODITIES/REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Metals firmer on Falklands tension

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

NERVOUSNESS ABOUT the Falklands Islands crisis, and the renewed tension in the Middle East, brought a generally firmer tone in the London metal markets yesterday.

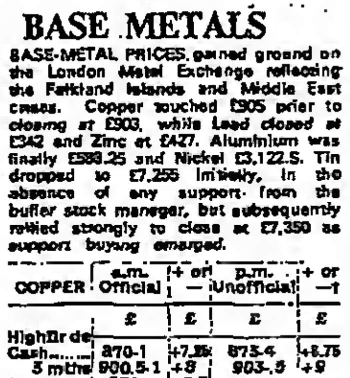
The spot price for gold bullion closed last night $8.25 higher at $352.5 a troy ounce, but this was still $10 down on a week ago.

London gold futures trading was launched on Monday when the market got off to a buoyant start with a turnover of 2,336 lots of 100 troy ounces. After the initial enthusiasm trading interest was dampened by the quiet state of the physical market. Nevertheless turnover wee maintained at over 1,000 lots daily, rallying to 1,204 lots yesterdey.

The rise in gold, and concern over political problems, helped copper to recover from earlier losses and the bigher-grade cash price ended the week £6 up at £873.5 a tonne. Encouraging the upturn was reports of cutbacks in Peruvian shipments, as a result of the strike that has halted production at the Toquepala mine and Ilo smelter. But the continued lack of consumer demand, and pessimism about short-term prospects, is fundamentally depressing all markets limiting price fluctuations.

Cash nickel futures gained £27.5 to £3,070 a tonne yesterday following news that Inco Europe is temporarily shutting down production of nickel pellets and powder at its Clydach refioery in South Wales because *of a stocks build up.*

Tin prices moved in a narrow range awaiting the outcome of the International Tin Council meeting in London, where producers are seeking the introduction of export controls as an



additional means of supporting the market. However the U.K. and West Germany were reported to be unhappy about export restrictions and the meeting failed to reach any conclusion before the closure of the Exchange yesterday.

Prices on the cocoa and sugar markets, which have been depressed for some time because of beavy supplies and slack consumer demand, were pushed further downwards this week by renewed producer selling.

Cocoa dealers noted trade selling which they attributed to bedging against producer sales. They thought French West African producers might have been encouraged to sell by the weakness of the franc.

Prices rallied on short-covering yesterday but the May futures position on the London market still ended £22 down at £926.50 a tonne. The earlier fall had taken futures prices to the lowest levels since June last year.

Figures published by the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance put UK January-March cocoa bean grindings at 25,335 tonnes, up 16.65 per cent from the same period last year.

Pressure on the world sugar market came from selling by Thailand, Dominican Republic and Florida. This resulted in prices slipping to the lowest levels for 2½-years. The August position on the London futures market ended the week £15.80 down at £131.65 a tonne and the London daily price for new sugar was £16 lower on the week of £126.

Gas oil prices, which have strengthened recently because of tighter supplies of Russian oil, were given a further boost this week by news of reduced Opec production. The May position on the London futures market ended $14.75 up on the week at $292.75 a tonne.

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest prices per tonne unless stated	Ch'nge on week	Year ago	1982 High	1982 Low
METALS					
Aluminium	£810/815	–	£810/815	£810/815	£810/815
Free Markets c.i.f.	$985/1015	–15	$1060/580	$1120/150	$990/1000
Antimony					
Free Market 99.6%	$2250/2480	–	$2950/050	$2450/650	$2125/226
Copper-Cash High Grade	£873.5	+6	£845.75	£875	£821.5
3 months Do. Do.	£903.25	+7.5	£866.75	£903.75	£849.75
Cash Cathodes	£858.5	+6	£837	£871	£830
3 months Do.	£897.75	+6.75	£853.5	£928.5	£848
Gold per oz	$352.5	–10	$495.5	$405.5	$313
Lead Cash	£328.25	+8	£355.5	£366.5	£315
3 months	£341.25	+9	£360.25	£377.25	£327.75
Nickel	£3928	–	£3,579.6	£3926	£3757.75
Free Markets c.i.f. lb	245/275c	–	290/305c	265/295c	246/275c
Platinum per oz	£260	–	£215.50	£260	£260
Free Market per oz	£190.40	–7.95	£223.60	£201.60	£168.30
Quicksilver (76 lbs)	$370/380	–5	$490/450	$415/420	$350/360
Silver per oz	406.80p	–20.0	535.60p	467.85p	385.60p
3 months per oz	412.80p	–21.5	541.15p	465.15p	397.40p
Tin cash	£7125	–28.5	£5987.5	£8985	£6846
3 months	£7356.5	–27	£6040	£8138.5	£6946
Tungsten Ind	$114.29	–6.03	$147.64	$134.48	$114.29
Wolfram (22.04 lb.)	$109/107	–	$144.5/147.5	$128/132	$102/107
Zinc cash	£428	+2.75	£380.5	£463.75	£403.5
3 months	£428.75	+2.5	£390.75	£459.25	£409
Producers	$850/900	–	$875	$950	$860/900
GRAINS					
Barley Futures	£103.55z	–0.5	£95.75	£111.80	£102.50
Maize French	£135.50	+2	£127.5	£165.50	£131.50
WHEAT Futures	£123.85t	–0.2		£123.75	£111.70
Hard Winter Wheat		–	£108.75	£116.75	£115.00
SPICES					
Cloves (g)	£5,600x	–60	£4,600	£5,660	£5,400
Pepper, white	$1,850x	–50	$2,027	$2,000	$1,850
" black	$1,375x	–75	$1,426	$1,475	$1,375
OILS					
Coconut (Philippines)	$525y	–	$585	$560	$475
Groundnut 5%	$690v	–		$715	$620
Linseed, Crude		–	£405	£430	£425
Palm Malayan	$505u	+2.5	$592.5	$545	$490
SEEDS					
Copra (Philippines)	$335x	+5	$390	$355	$325
Soyabeans (U.S.)	$272	+2.85	$322.5	$276	$253
OTHER COMMODITIES					
Cocoa Shipments §	£983	–28	£1,032	£1,276	£985
Cocoa Futures May	£926.5	–22	£956.5	£1,025.5	£910.5
Coffee Futures July	£1,138.5	–13	£1074	£1 055.5	£1,129.5
Cotton Index	71.50c	+0.1	87.80c	71.30c	87.80c
Des. Coconut	£600	–	£690	£540	£500
Gas Oil Fut. May	$299.75	+14.75	$214	$325	$235.25
Jute LJ ABW C grade	£269x	–	$288.75	£269	£263
Rubber kilo	56p	+0.25	54p	57.5p	45p
Sago Pearl	£225x	–	£210	£225	£220
Sisal No. 3L	$640/650x	–	$730	$640/650	$640
Sugar (Raw)	£126xu	–16	£200	£177	£126
Tapioca No. 1	£220x	–	£215	£225	£216
Tea (quality) kilo	120p	–		125p	117p
(plain) kilo	80p	–		80p	80p
Wooltops 64s Warp	401p kilo	+7	328p kilo	401p kilo	375p kilo

† Unquoted. (g) Madagascar. (t) July. (u) June. (w) May. (z) Sept. (v) May-June. (x) April-May. (y) Aug-Sept. • Nominal. § Ghana cocoa.

INDICES

FINANCIAL TIMES

April 23	April 21	Month ago	Year ago
244.22	245.15	244.68	281.57

(Base: July 1, 1952=100).

MOODY'S

April 23	April 22	Month ago	Year ago
997.2	997.5	994.8	1115.0

(December 31, 1931=100)

DOW JONES

Dow Jones	April 23	April 22	Month ago	Year ago
Spot	125.59	121.66	124.43	411.0
Futr's	129.70	130.16	126.38	422.5

(Base: December 31 1974=100)

REUTERS

April 23	April 22	M'nth ago	Year ago
1588.7	1601.6	1590.3	1701.6

(Base: September 18, 1931=100)

BASE METALS

BASE-METAL PRICES gained ground on the London Metal Exchange reflecting the Falkland Islands and Middle East crises. Copper touched £905 prior to closing at £903, [illegible] £342 and Zinc at £427. Aluminium was finally [illegible] Tin dropped [illegible] absence of any support from the buffer stock manager, but subsequently rallied strongly to close at £7,350 as support buying emerged.

COPPER [illegible]

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported [illegible]

TIN [illegible]

LEAD [illegible]

ZINC [illegible]

Zinc—Morning: Cash £425.00, three months £428.00, 28.50, 28.00, 27.50. Kerb: Three months £428.00, 27.50, 28.00. Afternoon: Three months £429.00, 28.50, 28.00, 28.50, 28.00. Kerb: Three months £428.00, 27.00, 28.00. Turnover: 10,050 tonnes.

Aluminm	a.m. Official	+ or –	p.m. Unofficial	+ or –
	£	£	£	£
Spot	557.5-8.5	–1	561.5-2.5	+6.75
3 months	579.5-80	–1.5	583.5-4	+6

Aluminium—Morning: Three months £577.00, 77.50, 78.00, 79.00, 79.50, 80.00. Kerb: Three months £580.00, 81.00. Afternoon: Three months £583.00, 83.50, 84.00. Kerb: Three months £584.00, 83.00, 84.00, 83.50. Turnover: 13,425 tonnes.

NICKEL	a.m. Official	+ or –	p.m. Unofficial	+ or –
Spot	3060-5	+47.5	3065-75	–27.5
3 months	3115-20	+30	3125-30	+30

Nickel — Morning: Three months £3,110, 20. Kerb: Three months £3,120. Afternoon: Three months £3,120, 25. Kerb: Three months £2,123, 30, 25. Turnover: 1,116 tonnes.

* Cents per pound. ‡ M$ per kilo. † On previous official close.

SILVER

Silver was fixed 2.1p an ounce higher for spot delivery in the London bullion market yesterday at 406.8p. U.S. cent equivalents of the fixing levels were: spot 720.5c, up 2.5c; three-month 745.2c, up 2c; six-month 772.5, up 1.5c; and 12-month 824.3c, up 1.3c. The metal opened at 405-407p (718-721c) and closed at 410-413p (726-730c).

SILVER per troy oz.	Bullion fixing price	+ or –	L.M.E. p.m. Unoffic'l	+ or –
Spot	406.80p	+2.10	410.5p	+7
3 months	419.80p	+2.10	424.00p	+5.85
6 months	433.85p	+1.55	–	
12 months	460.50p	+1.55	–	

LME—Turnover 85 (76) lots of 10,000 oz. Morning: three months 421.0, 20.5, 20.7, 22.2, 22.0, 21.8, 22.0. Kerb: three months 423.5. Afternoon: three months 424.00, 23.5, 23.2, 23.4, 23.5. Kerb: untraded.

COCOA

COCOA	Yest'rday's Close	+ or –	Business Done
April	885.016	+2.5	–
May	926-27	+7.0	929-11
July	968-63	+8.0	956-47
Sept	993-94	+7.0	995-90
Dec	1035-36	+8.5	1037-25
March	1055-56	–8.0	1055-57
May	1085-86	–1.0	1180
July	1100-20	+8.5	1100

Sales: 3,276 (2,498) lots of 100 tonnes.

ICCO—Daily price fob April 23: 79.26 (75.85). Indicator price for April 26: 76.08 (76.13).

COFFEE

COFFEE	Yesterday's Close	+ or –	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
May	1196-98	–13.0	1201-80
July	1137-40	+1.5	1140-18
Sept	1104-05	+5.0	1108-78
Nov	1088-89	+4.5	1090-86
January	1080-85	+2.0	1068-61
March	1065-69	–7.0	–
May	1040-65	–13.5	–

Sales: 2,979 (2,728) lots of 5 tonnes.

ICO Indicator prices for April 22: (U.S. cents per pound): Comp. daily 1979 122.40 (122.32): 15-day average 124.23 (124.18).

GAS OIL FUTURES

Prices steadied on continued nervousness over the Middle East and the Falklands. Physical prices were also steady. Rumours that the UK had regained South Georgia pushed prices to the highs, reports Premier Man.

Month	Yest'day's close	+ or –	Business Done
	$ U.S. per tonne		
April	291.00	+6.25	291.00-87.00
May	292.75	+3.25	294.50-88.25
June	288.76	+2.25	290.75-88.50
July	287.50	+2.25	290.50-85.00
August	287.50	+3.50	288.00-85.50
Sept	282.00	+2.50	[illegible]
Oct	222.00	+4.50	291.00-81.00
Nov	294.00	+0.50	294.00-94.00
Dec	296.00	+2.00	[illegible]

Turnover: 3,794 (6,115) lots of 100 tonnes.

GRAINS

LONDON GRAINS—Wheat: U.S. Dark Northern Spring No 1 14 per cent May 20/June 10 116.75, June 115.25, July 114.75 transhipment East Coast sellers. English Feed fob May 122, June 122.25 East Coast sellers. Maize: French second half April 136.50 transhipment East Coast seller. S. African White/Yellow May/June 90.50 seller. Barley: English Feed fob May 117.50 paid Gunness, May/June 118.50 East Coast, June 117.75 East Coast sellers.

WHEAT Mnth	Yesterd'ys close	+ or –	BARLEY Yest'rd'ys close	+ or –
May	112.35	+0.35	119.00	+0.15
July	123.25	+0.30	–	–
Sept	107.65	–0.10	105.55	–0.05
Nov	111.45	–0.15	107.20	–0.05
Jan	115.50	–0.10	111.25	–0.05
Mar	119.06	–0.15	114.86	–0.05

Business done—Wheat: May 118.40-118.75, July 123.25-122.55, Sept no trades, Nov 111.40 only, Jan no trades, Mar no trades. Sales: 135 lots of 100 tonnes. Barley: May 112.00-111.55, *Sept 103.35 only, Nov 107.25 only*, Jan no trades, Mar no trades. Sales: 92 lots of 100 tonnes.

HGCA—Locational ex-farm spot prices. Feed barley: E. Mids 110.30, N. East 110.00, Scotland 112.80. The UK Monetary Coefficient for the week beginning Monday April 26 will remain unchanged.

RUBBER

The London physical market opened about unchanged, attracted very little interest through the day and closed quiet. Lewis and Peat recorded a May fob price for No. 1 RSS in Kuala Lumpur of 206.5 (207.0) cents a kg and SMR 20 179.0 (179.5).

No. 1 R.S.S.	Yest'r'ys close	Previous close	Business Done
May	58.70-58.80	56.40-58.00	–
June	57.70-57.88	57.58-58.00	–
Jly-Sept	58.80-59.00	59.80-59.70	59.20-58.90
Oct-Dec	60.60-60.80	60.70-60.80	61.10-60.70
Jan-Mar	62.40-62.50	62.10-62.20	62.60-62.40
Apl-Jne	64.00-64.10	63.70-63.90	64.10-63.80
Jly-Sept	65.50-65.80	65.20-65.40	65.50
Oct-Dec	67.00-67.20	66.60-66.80	67.10
J'n-Mch	68.50-68.70	68.20-68.40	68.60

Sales: 230 (238) lots of 15 tonnes, nil (1) lots of 5 tonnes.

Physical closing prices (buyers) were: Spot 56.00p (same); May 53.50p (same); June 54.25p (same).

SOYABEAN MEAL

The market opened firm on constructive stock figures, reports T. G. Roddick. Prices remained steady on short-covering and stop-loss buying ahead of the weekend.

	Yesterdys Close	+ or –	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
June	137.00-37.5	+2.20	138.00-37.00
August	137.50-37.7	+1.85	137.40-37.20
October	138.50-38.6	+1.60	138.50-38.10
Dec	141.50-41.7	+1.78	141.50-41.00
Feb	145.00-46.0	+1.19	–
April	144.00-47.0	+1.25	–

Sales: 313 (65) lots of 100 tonnes.

SUGAR

No. 4 Con-tract	Yesterday close	Previous close	Business done
	£ per tonne		
May	128.25-28.50	125.50-25.85	150.50-22.25
Aug	132.50-32.55	131.80-31.70	134.00-28.50
Oct	138.10-38.25	137.50-37.70	140.25-34.75
Jan	141.00-42.00	140.50-42.00	142.00
March	146.10-46.70	147.50-48.00	150.25-47.25
May	151.00-51.50	150.75-51.00	155.00-49.50
Aug	155.00-56.00	154.50-56.50	154.50

Sales: 6,102 (6,229) lots of 50 tonnes.

Tate and Lyle delivery price for granulated basis white sugar was £374.00 (same) a tonne fob for home trade and £233.00 (£236.00) for export.

International Sugar Agreement (U.S. cents per pound) fob and stowed Caribbean ports. Prices for April 22: Daily price 8.53 (8.97); 15-day average 9.88 (10.02).

LONDON DAILY PRICE—Raw sugar £128.00 (£129.00) a tonne cif April-May-June shipment. White sugar daily price £153.00 (£157.00).

WOOL FUTURES

LONDON NEW ZEALAND CROSS-BREDS—Close (in order: buyer, seller, business). May 387, 388, 388; Aug 406, 407, 407-406; Oct 414, 415, 412; Dec 416, 416, 413-411; Jan 416, 417, 414; Mar 421, 426, 420-417; May 431, 433, 426; Aug 440, 443, 438; Oct 444, 450, 442-441. Sales: 35.

SYDNEY GREASY WOOL—Close (in order: buyer, seller, business). Australian cents per kg. May 556.0, 557.0, 560.0-556.0; July 554.0, 555.0, 557.5-553.5; Oct 524.5, 526.0, 526.0-524.5; Dec 525.0, 527.0, 526.5-526.0, Mar 528.0, 530.0, untraded; May 532.0, 535.0, untraded; July 540.0, 541.0, 541.0; Oct 540.0, 542.0, 540.0. Sales: 130.

GOLD MARKETS

Gold rose $8¼ from Thursday's close in the London bullion market yesterday to finish at $352-353. Trading was quiet for most of the morning after an opening level of $345-346, the lowest level of the day. Short covering ahead of the weekend pushed the metal to a best level of $353-353½ however before finishing slightly below the best level of the day.

	April 23		April 22	
Gold Bullion (fine ounce)				
Close	$352-353	(£199-199½)	$345¾-344¾	(£123½-194)
Opening	$345-346	(£194½-105)	$344-344	(£194-194½)
Morning fixing	$346.75	(£125.705)	$344.75	(£194.103)
Afternoon fixing	$352.25	(£198.526)	$345	(£194.390)
Gold Coins				
Krugerrand	$362½-363¼	(£204¾-205¼)	$354-355	(£192½-200)
1/2 Krugerrand	$187-188	(£105¾-106¼)	$182½-183½	(£102¾-103½)
1/4 Krugerrand	$95¼-96¼	(£53¾-54½)	$93-94	(£52½-53)
1/10 Krugerrand	$39-40	(£22-22½)	$38-32	(£21½-22)
Mapleleaf	$361½-366	(£204¼-205¼)	$366-354½	(£199-109¾)
New Sovereigns	$85½-86	(£48¼-48½)	$83½-84	(£47-47¼)
King Sovereigns	$98-99	(£55½-56)	$97-98	(£54½-55)
Victoria Sovs	$98-99	(£55½-56)	$97-98	(£54½-55)
French 20s	$77-87	(£45½-49¼)	$76-86	(£42¼-48)
50 pesos Mexico	$436-435¾	(£244¼-246¼)	$422¼-436	(£238-240)
100 Cor. Austria	$340¾-343¼	(£192-194)	$335-335½	(£187½-189)
$20 Eagles	$440-445	(£248½-251½)	$430-444	(£247¼-253)

LONDON FUTURES

Month	Yest'rday's close	+ or –	Business Done
	£ per troy ounce		
August	206.25-6.50	+5.675	206.70-2.10
Sept'mb'r	208.10-9.15	+5.425	208.50-7.45
October	219.15-0.15	+5.225	210.35-8.30

Turnover: 1,204 (1,186) lots of 100 troy ounces.

AMERICAN MARKETS

NEW YORK, April 22.

COPPER ADVANCED on rumours of force majeure by a Peruvian mine. Cocoa came under pressure because of increasing nearby availability from the Ivory Coast. Sugar made new lows because of cash sales by Thailand and tight new quotas for U.S. Heating oil was limit-up on increasing probabilities of a U.S. import tax and Opec indications that current production is below self-imposed ceilings, reported Heinold.

††Cocoa — May 1589 (1606), July 1563 (1581), Sept 1610, Dec 1680, March 1745, May 1791, July 1824. Sales: 2,800

Coffee—"C" Contract: May 134.10-134.25 (135.99), July 120.25-120.50 (123.38), Sept 115.10-115.25, Dec 113.00, March 110.50-111.00, May 105.50-109.50, July 100.00-109.00, Sept 98.50-109.00. Sales: 2,061.

Copper—April 68.75 (same), May 68.90-70.05 (70.05), June 70.90, July 71.95-72.05, Sept 73.70, Dec 76.20-76.35, Jan 77.05, March 78.50, May 80.20, July 81.80, Sept 83.35, Dec 85.65, Jan 86.40. Sales: 8,000.

Cotton — No. 2: May 68.20-68.28 (66.13), July 67.97-68.09 (68.03), Oct 71.15-71.17, Dec 72.37-72.39, March 74.10-74.15, May 75.20-75.40, July 76.20-76.80, Oct 76.25-77.50.

*Gold—April 344.7 (344.4), May 346.3 (346.0), June 349.3-350.0, Aug 356.8-357.8, Oct 365.0, Dec 372.5, Feb 381.1, April 389.7, June 398.4, Aug 407.3, Oct 416.4, Dec 425.6, Feb 434.8.

Orange Juice — May 112.80-113.20 (112.50), July 115.30-115.50 (116.15), Sept 117.50, Nov 120.00, Jan 121.50-121.80, March 123.00-123.40, May 124.50-124.80, July 126.00-128.40, Sept 127.50-128.00. Sales: 800.

*Platinum—April 329.5 (330.1), July 336.5-338.0 (337.1), Oct 345.5, Jan 357.5, April 369.0.

Potatoes (round whites)—Nov 50.2-81.0 (82.0), Feb 93.0 (92.7), March 93.5-94.0, April 105.0-105.9. Sales: 154.

†Silver—April 715.5 (719.0), May 718.0-712.0 (721.0), June 727.1, July 735.0-736.5, Sept 753.0, Dec 780.0, Jan 788.5, March 810.0, May 824.5, July 842.5, Sept 860.5, Dec 887.5, Jan 896.5. Handy and Harman bullion spot: 716.50 (720.00).

Sugar—No. 11: May 8.68-8.70 (8.67), July 8.90-8.92 (9.33), Sept 9.26, Oct 9.52-9.53, Jan 9.80-9.85, March 10.46-10.47, May 10.71, July 10.95, Sept 11.10-11.20. Sales: 14,965.

Tin—580.00-585.00 (591.00-585.00).

CHICAGO, April 22.

Lard—Chicago loose 21.50 (22.50).

Chicago Imm Gold—June 350.0-349.5 (349.2), Sept 361.8 (360.8), Dec 372.3, March 385.2, June 397.8, Sept 410.3.

Live Cattle—June 69.50-69.60 (69.27), Aug 64.90-64.50 (64.77), Oct 62.85-62.95, Dec 63.35, Feb 63.45, April 63.60.

Live Hogs—June 59.00-58.80 (58.40), July 59.65-59.75 (59.35), Aug 58.90-58.95, Oct 56.35-56.50, Dec 56.65, Feb 54.05, June 51.85, July 53.50.

‡‡Maize—May 276¾-277 (278¾), July 286½-285¾ (289½), Sept 290½-290¾, Dec 295¾, March 308½, May 316½.

Pork Bellies — May 82.40-82.20 (81.70), July 81.05-80.85 (80.35), Aug 78.40-78.80, Feb 73.40-73.00, March 73.95, May 74.40, July 75.40.

†Soyabeans—May 650-650½ (652¾), July 662-662½ (663¾), Aug 666-666½, Sept 668½-669, Nov 674-674½, Jan 687½, March 701½, May 713½, July 722½.

‖Soyabean Meal — May 189.0-189.2 (189.2), July 190.4-190.7 (191.7), Aug 191.5, Sept 193.0, Oct 194.0, Dec 196.8-197.0, Jan 199.0, March 203.5-204.5, May 207.5-208.5.

Soyabean Oil — May 19.63-19.67 (19.65), July 20.28-20.27 (20.27), Aug 20.54, Sept 20.75-20.80, Oct 20.50-20.95, Dec 21.30, Jan 21.40, March 21.60.

†Wheat—May 373½-373 (377½), July 384¾-383¾ (388¾), Sept 398½-398, Dec 416½-417, March 431-432, May 437½-439.

WINNIPEG, April 22

§Barley—May 123.40 (123.80), July 126.40 (127.10), Oct 128.10, Dec 129.30, March 132.00.

§Wheat—SCWRS 13.5 per cent protein content cif St. Lawrence 223.79 (224.48).

All cents per pound ex-warehouse unless otherwise stated. * $ per troy ounce. † Cents per troy ounce. ‡‡ Cents per 56-lb bushel. † Cents per 60-lb bushel. ‖ $ per short ton (2,000 lb). § $Can. per metric ton. §§ $ per 1,000 sq ft. ‡ Cents per dozen. †† $ per metric ton.

VEGETABLE OILS

SOYABEAN OIL—The market opened strong on active trading encouraged by firm cash markets and found renewed buying. Closing prices and business done (U.S. $ per tonne): June 500.00-02.00, 485.00-501.50; Aug 502.00-03.00, 485.00-504.00; Oct 506.00-08.50, 500.00-06.00; Dec 509.50-12.00, 505.50-08.00; Feb 518.50-15.00, 511.00-14.00; April 522.00-25.00. Sales: 223 (169), lots of 25 tonnes.

POTATOES

LONDON POTATO FUTURES—The market was quiet and featureless, reports Coley and Harper. Closing prices: Nov 65.80, –0.30 (high 66.50, low 65.50); Feb 75.50, –1.10 (high 77.00, low 75.60); April 88.10, +0.30 (high 88.50, low 87.50); May 98.90, +0.70 (high 99.00, low 97.40). Turnover: 142 (280) lots of 40 tonnes.

★

GRIMSBY FISH—Supply poor, demand good. Prices at ship's side (unprocessed) per stone: shelf cod £5.00-£6.00, codlings £3.50-£4.00; medium haddock £4.00-£4.50, small £2.50-£3.00; medium plaice £4.60-£5.00, best small £3.90-£4.70; skinned dogfish (medium) £9.00; lemon sole (large) £8.50, (medium) £7.60; rockfish £2.80.

Stock Exchange dealings

The list below, restricted mainly to equities and convertible stocks, has been taken with consent from last Thursday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission. It shows prices at which business was done in the 24 hours up to 3.30 pm on Thursday and settled through the Stock Exchange Talisman checking system.

The prices are not in order of execution, but in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest dealing prices.

For those securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List, the latest recorded business done during the previous four business days is given with relevant dates appended. The number of bargains done on Thursday in each section is shown against the respective sub-headings. Unless otherwise indicated the shares are 25p fully-paid.

‡ Bargains at special prices. Δ Bargains done with a non-member or executed in overseas market. ● Bargains done previous day. $A—$Australian; $B—$Bahamian; $C—$Canadian; $HK—$Hong Kong; $J—$Jamaican; $Ma—$Malayan; $Me—$Mexican; $NZ—$New Zealand; $S—$Singapore; $US—$United States; $WI—$West Indian.

BANKS, DISCOUNT (513)

BREWERIES (339)

COMMERCIAL (6,957)

A—B

C—D

E—F

G—H

I—J—K

L—M

N—O—P

Q—R—S

T—U—V

W—Y—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS (179)

INSURANCE (368)

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (416)

UNIT TRUSTS (13)

MINES—Miscellaneous (247)

MINES—South African (63)

OIL (822)

PROPERTY (296)

PLANTATIONS (32)

RAILWAYS (9)

SHIPPING (60)

UTILITIES (13)

UNLISTED SECURITIES MARKET (297)

Eight schemes vie for Thames site

BY COLIN AMERY

THE ARCHITECTURAL competition for the 12 acres of London riverside land at Vauxhall has produced a short list of eight schemes by British architects to replace the rejected "Green Giant" proposals.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has offered to speed up the planning process by asking Parliament to approve a Special Development Order if a design of sufficient architectural merit wins the competition.

It is a crucial site for the London townscape and from 128 entries the assessors have selected a range of schemes that attempt to compromise the high density requirements of the brief with the need for architectural distinction.

The brief demands more than 1m sq ft of offices with housing, shopping and some leisure and social buildings as peripheral additions.

An inevitable result of the high density, £90m brief has been that offices predominate in all the schemes. The refusal by Lambeth Council to appoint an assessor has removed any particularly local quality from the scheme.

Architecturally, the range of solutions is wide. There are "high-tech" towers and even classical revival pavilions. All the solutions represent an advance on the rejected scheme.

A winner will be chosen by Arunbridge on May 12 and it will be interesting to discover whether it is possible for architecture worthy of the site to be produced from a strongly commercial brief.

It is a test case for architects who have to convince the public and developers that it is worth holding competitions to raise environmental standards.

It is hard to see from the exhibited proposals any significant architectural breakthrough and anonymity prevents the disclosure of the names of any of the shortlisted designers. The promoters of the competition say that only two of the entries are by large commercial practices.

City Industrial to pay £1m for Agricultural Hall

BY BELINDA NENK

THE Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington, London, is to be sold to City Industrial, a shopfitting company, for £1m.

The historic main hall will be converted into an interior design trade centre, believed to be the first of its kind in the country. The rest of the building will be pulled down to make way for offices and 30 residential housing units for which planning permission has been granted.

Islington Council bought the hall, built in 1862, for about £1.3m, in 1976. It has since cost ratepayers about £1m in interest charges and wages.

Mr David Hyams, chairman of Islington Council's Planning Committee, said: "We feel quite happy that City Industrial is buying it. It is part of a whole refurbishment of the Angel which is taking place now, and I am just glad to see the thing back in use."

Mr Jock Morris, property director of City Industrial, said yesterday: "It will take us one and a half years to build the trade centre, and we are already talking to interested parties. All sorts of people in interior decorating will have permanent exhibition stands to sell to the trade, with delivery from their warehouses.

"We have taken the idea from trade centres in the U.S., especially Los Angeles."

The Greater London Council has given its final approval to the scheme which now awaits permission from the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Independent radio for Buckinghamshire

A NEW company—the Aylesbury Broadcasting Company—has been formed following the recent Independent Broadcasting Authority decision to set up an independent local radio station for Buckinghamshire, based in Aylesbury.

The company will bid for the franchise to run the station. Invitations to do so are expected soon.

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RULE 163 (1) (e)

Bargains marked in securities which are quoted or listed on an Overseas Stock Exchange.

Abrolhos Oil Invs. 5 (16/4)
Acmex 46 (21/4)
Algoma Cent. Rlwy 500 (20/4)
Alliance Oil Australia 67 (21/4)
Allied Chemical £16¼ (19/4)
Allstate Exp. 170 (21/4)
Amerada Hess £10¼ (19/4)

RULE 163 (2) (a)

Applications granted for specific bargains in securities not listed on any Stock Exchange.

RULE 163 (3)

Dealings for approved companies engaged solely in mineral exploration.

(By permission of the Stock Exchange Council)

MONEY MARKETS

London clearing bank base lending rate 13 per cent (since March 12)

Trading was rather quiet in the London money market yesterday ahead of the weekend. There was a marked reluctance to take on fresh positions in view of possible further developments in the Falklands situation over the weekend. In the interbank market weekend money opened at 13½-13¾ per cent and most of the day's business was seen at this level. Rates rose to 13¾-14 per cent but came back to 13-13¼ per cent and then fell away to 12½ per cent before finishing at 13 per cent.

The Bank gave a forecast of a shortage of £300m with bills maturing in official hands accounting for £127m, a rise in the note circulation £210m and bankers balances brought forward below target £66m. On the other hand Exchequer transactions added £150m. The Bank alleviated the shortage in the morning by buying £291m of bills. This comprised £111m of eligible bank bills in band 1 (up to 14 days) at 13⅛ per cent and £74m in band 2 (15-33 days) at 13 per cent. In band 3 (34-63 days) it bought £67m of eligible bank bills at 12⅞ per cent and in band 4 (64-84 days) it bought £7m of local authority bills and £32m of eligible bank bills, all at 12⅞ per cent. There was no further assistance given in the afternoon.

Longer term rates reflected market uncertainty with interbank rates quoted at 13 11/16-13 13/16 per cent for one to 12-months and sterling CDs also at 13 11/16-13 13/16 per cent from one month onwards. However, there was some easing in tension after last week's action by the Bank of England to hold down the rise in the Treasury bill rate. This week's average rate of discount fell to 12.8910 per cent from 13.1993 per cent and with economic indicators continuing to show a brightening outlook rates seem set to fall should the Falklands crisis reach a relatively quick and bloodless conclusion.

CURRENCIES

The dollar was weaker in currency markets yesterday on expectations of lower interest rates. This was reinforced by a fall to 6.8 per cent in the annual rate of inflation from 7.7 per cent previously. Against the D-mark the dollar slipped to DM 2.3870 from DM 2.3975 and SwFr 1.9690 from SwFr 1.9685. The dollar was also weaker against the Japanese yen at Y241.30 compared with Y242.80. On Bank of England figures the dollar's trade weighted index fell to 114.9 from 115.4.

Sterling tended to move in line with the dollar and its trade weighted index slipped to 89.8 from 90.2, having stood at 90.0 at noon and 90.1 at the opening. There was little desire to take out fresh positions with the possibility of an escalation in tension in the Falklands crisis over the weekend. Against the dollar sterling opened at $1.7720 and touched a best level of $1.7750 before falling away during the afternoon to a low of $1.7670. It closed at $1.7710-$1.7720, a fall of 50 points.

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

April 23	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	1.7670-1.7750	1.7710-1.7720	0.18-0.28c dis	-1.56	0.62-0.72dis	-1.51
Canada	2.1600-2.1700	2.1660-2.1670	0.33-0.43c dis	-2.10	1.20-1.30dis	-2.31
Nethlnd.	4.68-4.73	4.69-4.70	2½-1⅞c pm	6.43	6½-6 pm	5.32
Belgium	79.80-80.50	79.90-80.00	20-35c dis	-4.13	75-90 dis	-4.13
Denmark	14.38-14.45	14.38-14.39	7-7¼ore dis	-0.15	19½-20½dis	-5.81
Ireland	1.2230-1.2315	1.2240-1.2250	0.60-0.73p dis	-0.31	1.80-1.97dis	-6.10
W. Ger.	4.22-4.26	4.22½-4.23½	1½-1¼pf pm	4.25	5-4½ pm	4.49
Portugal	128.00-130.00	128.25-128.25	190-510c dis	-32.82	400-1200dis	-24.85
Spain	186.50-187.30	186.70-186.90	60-85c dis	-4.66	180-225 dis	-4.34
Italy	2,338-2,346	2,340-2,342	19½-22½ lire dis	-10.76	59-63 dis	-10.42
Norway	10.75-10.80	10.76-10.77	3½-4¼ore dis	-4.60	7¼-8¼ dis	-2.97
France	11.03-11.11	11.04-11.06	5¼-8¼c dis	-7.88	23-20 dis	-8.87
Sweden	10.42-10.50	10.43-10.44	⅞-⅛ore pm	0.43	2½-1⅞ pm	0.72
Japan	426-432	427-428	2.43-2.26y pm	2.80	6.85-6.65 pm	6.31
Austria	29.65-29.95	29.68-29.73	15-11gro pm	5.25	38-31 pm	4.64
Switz.	3.47-3.51	3.48-3.49	3-2½c pm	9.47	7½-7¼ pm	2.46

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 87.95-88.05. Six-month forward dollar 1.12-1.22c dis, 12-month 1.80-1.95c dis.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

April 23	Pound St'rling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschem'k	Japan'se Yen	FrenchFranc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild'	Italian Lira	Canadia Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.	1.772	4.230	427.5	11.043	3.485	4.693	2341.	2.107	79.83
U.S. Dollar	0.564	1.	2.388	241.3	6.233	1.967	2.650	1321.	1.223	45.13
Deutschemark	0.238	0.418	1.	101.1	2.611	0.824	1.110	553.4	0.512	12.90
Japanese Yen 1,000	2.339	4.144	9.893	1000.	25.84	8.162	10.98	5476.	5.068	187.0
French Franc 10	0.906	1.604	3.830	387.1	10.	3.153	4.231	2120.	1.902	70.39
Swiss Franc	0.227	0.508	1.214	122.7	3.169	1.	1.347	671.7	0.632	22.94
Dutch Guilder	0.213	0.377	0.901	91.06	2.353	0.742	1.	498.6	0.401	17.03
Italian Lira 1,000	0.427	0.757	1.807	182.6	4.718	1.488	2.006	1000.	0.923	34.13
Canadian Dollar	0.462	0.818	1.952	197.3	6.098	1.609	2.167	1081.	1.	36.90
Belgian Franc 100	1.231	2.216	5.291	534.7	13.81	4.330	5.872	2628.	2.710	100.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market closing Rates)

April 23	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	D-mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Belgian Franc Conv.	Belgian Franc Fin.	Yen	Danish Krone
Short term	13⅛-13¼	14¼-13	14½-13½	8-8¼	1⅛-1¼	9⅛-9⅜	16-18	18-20	14-16	14½-13¼	6½-8½	—
7 days' notice	13⅝-13⅞	14⅞-13⅛	14½-13⅛	8⅛-2¼	3½-3¾	9⅜-0⅜	18-20	21-24	15-17½	14¼-13	6¾-6⅞	20½-22
Month	13⅝-13⅞	14⅜-15⅛	10⅝-10¾	8⅜-8⅝	4⅛-4⅜	9⅛-8⅜	20-81	23¾-26	16½-17½	14½-13	6⅝-6⅞	19⅜-21⅜
Three months	13⅝-13⅞	14⅞-13⅛	13⅝-18	8⅜-8⅝	4¾-4⅞	8⅞-8	22-23¼	23¾-24⅛	17-18	14⅞-15⅛	6⅞-7	18⅜-20⅜
Six months	13¾-13⅞	14½-13⅛	13¾-16⅛	8¼-8⅜	5⅜-5½	8¾-8⅞	21-21¾	23⅛-24⅜	16¾-17¾	14⅝-14⅛	6⅞-7	18⅜-10⅜
One Year	13¾-13⅞	14⅝-14⅞	16-16⅝	8⅜-8¾	5¾-5⅞	8⅝-8¾	18⅛-20¼	23½-24⅜	16-17	14⅝-14⅛	6⅝-6⅞	17-18½

SDR linked deposits: one month 13 5/16-13 11/16 per cent; three months 13½-13⅞ per cent; six months 13 5/16-13 11/16 per cent; one year 13-13⅜ per cent.

ECU linked deposits: one month 14-14⅜ per cent; three months 14⅜-14¾ per cent; six months 14-14⅜ per cent; one year 13 7/16-13 11/16 per cent.

Asian $ (closing rates in Singapore): one month 15 3/16-15 5/16 per cent; three months 15 5/16-15 7/16 per cent; six months 15 3/16-15 5/16 per cent; one year 14 13/16-14 15/16 per cent. Long-term Eurodollar two years 15-15¼ per cent; three years 15¼-15½ per cent; four years 15¼-15½ per cent; five years 15¼-15½ per cent; nominal closing rates. Short-term rates are call for U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Japanese yen; others two days' notice.

The following rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one month 14.60-14.70 per cent; three months 14.65-14.75 per cent; six months 14.60-14.70 per cent; one year 14.55-14.65 per cent.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING (11.00 a.m. APRIL 23)

3 months U.S. dollars		6 months U.S. dollars	
bid 15 1/16	offer 13 3/16	bid 13	offer 13 1/8

The fixing rates are the arithmetical means, rounded to the nearest one-sixteenth, of the bid and offered rates for $10m quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Nationale de Paris and Morgan Guaranty Trust.

LONDON MONEY RATES

April 23 1982	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discount Market Deposits	Treasury Bills ♦	Eligible Bank Bills ♦	Fine Trade Bills ♦
Overnight	—	10⅛-14	—	—	—	—	12¼-13⅛	—	—	—
2 days notice	—	—	13½-13⅝	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days or	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days notice	—	13⅝-13¾	13½-13⅝	—	—	13¾-16⅞	12¾-13	—	—	—
One month	13 13/16-13 11/16	13 15/16-13 13/16	13⅞	14⅛-14⅛	13 15/16	14⅛	12¾-13	13 1/16	13⅛	14⅛
Two months	13¼-13 11/16	13 11/16-13 11/16	—	14⅝-14	13¾	14⅛	10¾-12⅞	13-13 1/16	13 1/32	15⅞
Three months	13 13/16-13 11/16	13 13/16-13 11/16	13⅝	14⅝-14	13 13/16	14⅛	12¾-12⅞	12 15/16-13	13 3/32	13½
Six months	13 11/16-13 11/16	13 13/16-13 11/16	13⅛	14-13⅝	13⅞	—	—	—	12 15/16-13 1/32	13⅝
Nine months	13 13/16-13 11/16	13 13/16-13 11/16	—	14¼-13⅞	13⅞	—	—	—	—	—
One year	13 13/16-13 11/16	13 13/16-13 13/16	13⅝	14⅛-13¾	13⅞	—	—	—	—	—
Two years	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Local authorities and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days fixed. Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 14 per cent; four years 13½ per cent; five years 14 per cent. ♦Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rates for four-month bank bills 13⅜-13¼ per cent; four months trade bills 13¾ per cent.

Approximate selling rates for one month Treasury bills 12 15/16-13 per cent; two months 12 7/8-12 15/16 per cent; three months 12 15/16-13⅛ per cent. Approximate selling rate for one month bank bills 13-13 3/32 per cent; two months 12 29/32 per cent and three months 12 29/32-12 15/16 per cent; one month trade bills 13⅞ per cent; two months 13¾ per cent; three months 13½ per cent.

Finance Houses Base Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 14½ per cent from April 1 1982. Clearing Bank Deposit Rates for sums at seven days' notice 10-10¼ per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 13 per cent. Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 12.8910 per cent.

Certificates of Tax Deposit (Series 6) 13½ per cent from March 8. Deposits withdrawn for cash 11 per cent.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

April 23	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes%
Sterling	89.8	-33.4
U.S. dollar	114.8	+7.3
Canadian dollar	88.5	-17.9
Austrian schilling	118.9	+25.2
Belgian franc	94.9	-2.0
Danish kroner	83.4	-13.5
Deutsche mark	123.7	+47.5
Swiss franc	140.8	+100.9
Guilder	114.5	+21.6
French franc	78.7	-15.1
Lira	53.2	-58.3
Yen	137.0	+31.3

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. Bank of England Index (base average 1975=100).

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU April 23	% change from central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc	44.6963	45.3002	+1.13	+1.13	±1.5440
Danish Krone	8.18382	8.10947	-0.91	-0.91	±1.6428
German D-Mark	2.41815	2.38127	-1.11	-1.11	±1.1097
French Franc	6.19564	6.23885	+0.71	+0.71	±1.3743
Dutch Guilder	2.67296	2.65315	-0.74	-0.74	±1.5069
Irish Punt	0.686799	0.691784	+0.73	+0.73	±1.6689
Italian Lira	1305.13	1318.35	+1.01	+1.01	±4.1242

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

Sterling/ECU rate for April 23 ..... 0.563103

OTHER CURRENCIES

April 23	£	$		£ Note Rates
Argentina Peso	21,015-21,235‡	11,850-12,000‡	Austria	29.70-30.00
Australia Dollar	1.6765-1.6805	0.9460-0.9493	Belgium	87.50-88.50
Brazil Cruzeiro	270.35-271.35	152.43-153.12	Denmark	14.33-14.49
Finland Markka	8.162-8.176	4.6060-4.6000	France	11.05-11.13
Greek Drachma	110.710-114.033	63.40-63.70	Germany	4.23-4.27
Hong Kong Dollar	10.30-10.331½	5.8125-5.8225	Italy	2310-2303
Iran Rial	143.75*	82.25*	Japan	431-438
Kuwait Dinar (KD)	0.503-0.511	0.2869-0.2870	Netherlands	4.69½-4.73½
Luxembourg Fr.	72.90-80.00	43.14-45.16	Norway	10.72-10.82
Malaysia Dollar	4.1485-4.1523	2.3375-2.3405	Portugal	127-138
New Zealand Dlr.	2.3020-2.3060	1.3005-1.3025	Spain	182½-194¾
Saudi Arab. Riyal	6.04-6.10	3.4290-3.4310	Sweden	10.45-10.55
Singapore Dollar	3.7705-3.7805	2.1273-2.1305	Switzerland	3.48-3.52
Sth. African Rand	1.8625-1.8645	1.0516-1.0525	United States	1.76-1.78
U.A.E. Dirham	6.49-6.53	3.6710-3.6740	Yugoslavia	93-99

‡ Now one rate. * Selling rate.

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AUTHORISED TRUSTS

NOTES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Market recovery consolidated and share index closes 16.4 up on week at 567.1—Oils feature again

Account Dealing Dates

*First Dealings	Option Declara-tions	Last Dealings	Account Day
Mar 29	Apr 15	Apr 16	Apr 26
Apr 19	Apr 28	Apr 29	May 10
Apr 30	May 13	May 14	May 24

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

London stock markets ended the first week of the current trading Account quietly. Yesterday's slightly easier tendency contrasted with the performance earlier in the week when improved sentiment about a peaceful solution to the Falkland Islands dispute took markets shrarply better.

Falls in leading shares were modest and mainly reflected the absence of fresb investmeot demand as ootential buyers held off awaiting developments in the Falklands dispute.

The relatively steady performance was well illustrated by the FT 30-share iodex which showed a loss of only 2.4 at its lowest of the day and closed 1.9 down on balance at 567.1. Over the week, however, the index recorded a net gain of 16.4, and yesterday's close was only 3.9 off the level before the Falklands crisis made its first impact on the market three weeks ago.

Still reflectiog the sharp cutbeck in OPEC crude production and encouraged further hy the increase in the Rotterdam spot cruda price, Oil shares made another good showing and helped to take the FT-Actuaries 500 share index to an all-time high of 354.0.

Gold shares showed a late burst of strength in line with an advance in the bullion price on weekend nervousness. A rise of 9.4 in the Gold Mines index reduced its fall on the week to one of 5.4 at 260.6.

Gilt-edged securities also put on a steady performance and consolidated most of the sharp improvement made earlier in the week. As with equities, there was oo ooticeable deterioratioo in sentiment with underlying confidence being giveo a boost hy the reduction in the retail price index and by the fall in this week's Treasury Bill rate.

Inclined easier initially throughout the list, most quotations picked up and eoded the day little changed. The Government Securities index closed a shade off at 67.61, but still recorded a rise of 1.11 on the week.

Composites down again

Composite Insurances eoded the week on a dull note. Renewed small offerings aod lack of support following recent adverse comment left fresh falls ranging to 7. Royals closed that much down at 323p.

Still worried about the group's substantial Argeotinian assets, Lloyds cheapened 4 to 418p. Elsewhere in e quiet banking sector, ANZ reflected domestic advices with a gain of 8 to 255p, while Ottoman Bank put on 2 points more to £56¼.

Outsize clothing mail order coocern Andre De Brett made a quiet debut in the Unlisted Securities Market; the shares opeoed at 61p and closed at 62p compared with the placing price of 60p.

The undertone in Buildings remained firm, but business was slack. Blue Circle hardened a couple of peoce to 464p; the preliminary results are due next Wednesday. Tarmac, reporting the day before, also added 2, to 490p, while George Wimpey, preliminary results due on Thursday, hardened a penny to 108p. Tilbury Group, a thin market, put on 7 for a gain on the week of 77 to 402p in response to the return to profitability and on the capital reorganisation proposals. P. C. Henderson added 5 to a 1982 peak of 165p and Phoenix Timber 6 to 78p. By contrast, selling in an unwilling market left Rohan Group 21 down at 165p.

Interest in ICI was at a low ebb in the wake of the chairman's cautious remarks at the AGM and the close was 4 cheaper at 318p. Elsewhere in the Chemical sector, Coates Brothers A improved 4 to 77p.

Leadiog Stores finished the week on a quiet note and most held close to the overnight levels. Marks and Spencer eased a penny but retained a gain on the week of 9 at 153p; the annual results are scheduled for next Thursday. Gussies A, currently bidding for Empire Stores, eased a couple of pence to 493p, still up 15 on the week; Empire added 2 to 106p, or 7 below the offer terms. Business among secondary issues was dominated by company trading statements. Bentalls firmed 2 to 40p following the increased preliminary profits and dividend, but Owen Owen, which revealed a full-year loss on Thursday, gave up 10 more to 160p.

Among Shoes, Stylo, a nervous market of late, advanced 18 to 123p, after 125p, in response to the humper annual profits.

Plessey firm

Plessey came to the fore in Electricals, rising 7 to 377p in response to investment buying. GEC, still stimulated by the £250m South African turbine generator contract, rose 5 more for a gain on the week of 34 to 839p. Elsewhere, Amstrad revived with a rise of 10 to 235p and Quest Automation firmed 8 to 75p. The agreed sale of the company's Irish subsidiaries to a Norwegian and Irish consortium for £3.2m helped Ward and Goldstone to improve a few pence to 110p.

Still reflecting comment on the preliminary results, Hawker advanced 8 more for a rise on the week of 28 to 324p. Interest elsewhere in the Engineering sector was minimal. Bullough hardened 2 more to 190p on further consideration of the £3.2m acquisition of Propaflor and the board's encouraging remarks about current-year trading.

Tate and Lyle reacted to 200p before closing a net 6 down at 202p on news that Redpath Industries of Canada, in which the company holds a 25 per cent stake, had incurred a second-quarter loss. Recently firm J. Sainsbury and British Sugar shed 5 apiece to 600p and 475p respectively; both companies' annual results are due soon. Revived demand in a thin market lifted Samportex 7 to 112p for an advance on the week of 37p.

Sothebys jump

Continuing to rally from the recent depressed level of 275p which followed news of the boardroom shakeout and profits warning, Sothebys jumped 30 for an advance of 65 on the week at 350p; sentiment yesterday was buoyed by hopes of a lucrative De Beers diamond auction in Geneva on May 5. Elsewhere in miscellaneous industrials, Beecham fell 9 to 228p as a large line of shares was placed through the market. News of further redundancies clipped 4 from Pilkington, 250p, while Rank lost a similar amount at 178p. Still reflecting Press comment, Beecham hardened 2 more to 248p and the recently buoyant Glaxo also edged forward 2, making an advance on the week of 40 at 632p.

Revived speculative buying on hopes of a full-scale bid from the Melan Investment Company of Liechtenstein, which already owns a near-26 per cent stake in Inter-City Investment helped the latter to touch 55p before closing a couple of pence better at 53p. Pentos hardened 2 to 14p on management's buy-out of a subsidiary. Currently in receipt of an agreed bid from Redland, Cawoods improved 6 more to 290p, after 292p, while Dentsply 9 per cent Convertible gained 3 points further for a jump of 29 on the week to £93 following the board's repayment plan at £90 per cent. Solicitors Law eased 2 to 28p on poor annual figures and Amalgamated Metal gave up 4 to 546p, also on disappointing trading news.

Samuelson Film Service, a thin market, jumped 25 to 160p in response to the increased interim profits and the board's cheerful statement.

Among generally idle Motors, York Trailer continued to benefit from the encouraging tenor of the chairman's progress report and added a penny to record a three-day gain of 6 at 19p.

Among Publishers, Pearson Longman succumbed to profit-taking in the absence of news about the talks with parent S. Pearson and fell to 322p before recovering to close 4 cheaper on balance at 329p. International Thomson, which announced annual figures earlier in the week, jumped 14 more to 292p.

Properties, already a shade easier, encountered scrappy selling towards the official close. Land Securities finished 7 down at 281p and MEPC 3 off at 200p, while Great Portland Estates lost 6 to 170p. Elsewhere, Markheath Securities, dealt in the Unlisted Securities Market, added 5 to 170p following the profits forecast and the decision to apply for an official listing. Cussins Property, also dealt in the USM, added 2 for a gain on the week of 10 to 100p in response to the annual results. Lend Lease jumped 19 to 194p on Australian advices.

Oils bought

Oils made another strong showing in the wake of the good performance of energy stocks on Wall Street and the hardening Rotterdam spot price. Shell rose 14 for a gain on the week of 38 to a 1982 peak of 416p, while British Petroleum put on 8 for a week's advance of 34 to 320p. Ultramar firmed another 16 to 433p and Lasmo 10 more to 350p, while Tricentrol gained 8 to 22p. Carless Capel put on 7 to 183p and Candecca 4 to 200p awaiting the Humbly Grove drilling report, while Press comment prompted support for Jackson Exploration, 10 up at 104p, and American Oil Systems, 8 to the good at 114p. Renewed buying in a thin market lifted Hamilton Oil 9 to 103p. Against the trend, NCC Energy dropped 8 to 55p following adverse U.S. Press comment about the company's links with Simplicity Pattern.

Overseas Traders generally finished with modest gains. Steel Brothers continued to attract speculative support in the wake of the annual results and added 3 for a two-day gain of 28 to 233p. Boustead were briskly traded and touched 70p before settling for a net gain of 2 at 66p.

Golds advance

Shippings were mixed. Press comment highlighting the company's asset value prompted support of British and Commonwealth which jumped 10 to 412p; Caledonia improved 15 to 382p. Renewed speculative demand lifted Milford Docks 9 to 132p. In contrast, Lyle reacted 13 more to 232p on the chairman's profit warning.

Mining markets closed the week with an impressive display of strength with almost all sectors advancing rapidly in the wake of the higher bullion price. The latter moved up $8.25 to $352.50 an ounce reflecting increasing nervousness about the Falkland islands and the Middle East situation.

Golds ended sharply higher despite the generally reduced profits in the March quarter announced this week by mines in the Anglovaal, Johnnies, Gencor, Barlow Rand and Anglo American groups.

The improving bullion price coupled with general satisfaction with the dividends announced yesterday by the Anglo American Orange Free State mines encouraged widespread support and persistent bear covering which left quotations at the day's best levels at the close. The Gold Mines index responded with a rise of 9.4 to 260.1.

The recent upward movement in Australians gathered momentum with heavy and persistent buying of leading and speculative issues.

The strength of the market was attributed to rumours of another oil discovery in the Canning Basin, scene of the Blina 1 oil find, hopes of a recovery in metal prices and the market view that the sector has been oversold.

The Canning Basin rumour was cited as the main reason for recent sharp rises in Western Mining, which yesterday advanced 11 to 240p—up 24 on the week—and Australian Consolidated Minerals, 3 firmer at a 1982 high of 23p and 9 up on the week; both companies hold exploration permits in the Canning Basin, as do Eagle Corporation, 2½ higher at 23½p, and Swan Resources, which jumped 10 to 45p.

The leading metal producers showed Peko-Wallsend 22 to the good at 292p.

In Coals, Oakbridge moved up 10 to 80p, while Golds were highlighted by Poseidon, 8 higher at 112p. Among the oil and gas issues, Santos continued to improve and gained 20 more to 310p while Oil Company of Australia hardened 2 to 24p.

Business in Traded Options held up relatively well and 2,208 contracts were completed, comprising 1,903 calls and 305 puts. The week's daily average amounted to 2,131, the highest since early February. Once again, a substantial proportion of interest was directed towards Oil stocks; British Petroleum attracted 472 calls and 155 puts while Shell Transport recorded 418 calls and 64 puts. Lasmo were dealt 147 times for the call.

OPTIONS

First Deal-ings	Last Deal-ings	Last Declara-tion	For Settle-ment
April 26	May 7	July 29	Aug 9
May 10	May 21	Aug 12	Aug 23
May 24	June 11	Sept 2	Sept 13

For rate indications see end of Share Information Service

Stocks favoured for the call included ICL, Premier Oil, Poseidon, Sun Oil Royalties, Celtic Haven, Pancontinental, KCA International, William Press, Dawson International, Charterhall, Lloyds Bank, BP, Marshall's Universal, Westland, Howard Tenens, Sound Diffusion, Riley Leisure, Singlo, Ultramar, Arrow Chemical and Empire Stores. No puts were reported, but doubles were arranged in Acrow A, Amalgamated Estates and Lasmo.

RISES AND FALLS

	Yesterday Up	Down	Same	On the week Up	Down	Same
British Funds	1	9	84	248	32	125
Corpns, Dom. and Foreign Bonds	2	13	61	100	47	233
Industrials	259	211	871	1,784	910	4,105
Financial and Properties	138	62	307	808	233	1,501
Oils	52	11	44	176	74	285
Plantations	5	3	15	18	9	89
Mines	78	8	73	200	178	422
Others	73	25	60	231	257	292
Totals	608	342	1,515	3,565	1,705	7,052

LEADERS AND LAGGARDS

Percentage changes since December 31, 1981, based on Thursday, April 22, 1982.

Health and H'sehold Products	+22.89	Food Manufacturing	+ 3.88
Tobaccos	+22.78	Electricals	+ 3.48
Other Consumer	+17.82	Capital Goods	+ 3.24
Stores	+14.93	Investment Trusts	+ 2.54
Insurance Brokers	+13.63	Office Equipment	+ 1.38
Consumer Group	+12.39	Engineering Contractors	+ 1.18
Food Retailing	+11.79	Other Industrial Materials	+ 0.45
Chemicals	+11.26	Mechanical Engineering	− 0.14
Newspapers, Publishing	+10.82	Motors	− 0.56
Contracting, Construction	+10.70	Insurance (Composite)	− 0.88
Packaging and Paper	+10.26	Metals and Metal Forming	− 1.44
Textiles	+ 9.90	Oils	− 1.83
Brewers and Distillers	+ 9.79	Financial Group	− 2.18
Other Groups	+ 9.05	Property	− 2.97
Industrial Group	+ 9.41	Merchant Banks	− 6.56
Building Materials	+ 9.17	Banks	− 6.59
Leisure	+ 6.99	Discount Houses	− 7.24
500-Share Index	+ 6.57	Overseas Traders	− 9.26
Shipping and Transport	+ 6.39	Mining Finance	−10.49
Insurance (Life)	+ 4.48	Gold Mines Index	−19.47
All-Share Index	+ 4.10		

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 16	A year ago
Government Secs	67.61	67.67	67.67	67.49	67.06	66.50	69.49
Fixed Interest	68.24	68.19	68.25	67.75	67.40	67.56	71.34
Industrial Ord.	567.1	569.0	567.4	562.8	558.1	550.7	567.3
Gold Mines	260.1	250.7	250.6	247.8	255.5	265.5	357.8
Ord. Div. Yield	5.52	5.52	5.54	5.56	5.60	5.69	5.60
Earnings, Yld.% (full)	11.02	11.05	11.03	11.12	11.21	11.38	11.04
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	11.49	11.56	11.59	11.29	11.19	11.09	11.30
Total bargains	15,415	15,910	15,975	16,476	13,979	15,504	27,220
Equity turnover £m.	—	151.74	104.94	118.69	97.30	115.90	260.26
Equity bargains	—	12,550	11,912	12,462	9,393	12,487	26,088

10 am 565.7. 11 am 567.5. Noon 567.0. 1 pm 565.7. 2 pm 566.6. 3 pm 567.4.

Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial Ord. 1/7/35. Gold Mines 12/9/55. SE Activity 1974.

Latest Index 01-246 8026.

*Nil = 10.60.

HIGHS AND LOWS

S.E. ACTIVITY

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1982

ACTIVE STOCKS

THURSDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

5-DAY ACTIVE STOCKS

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

FIXED INTEREST

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

INSURANCES

Abbey Life Assurance Co. Ltd.
1-3 St. Paul's Churchyard, EC4. 01-248 9111

Property Fund	226.1	[illegible]	.....	—
Equity Fund	51.3	[illegible]	+0.3	—
Property Acc.	264.4	[illegible]	.....	—
Equity Acc.	49.1	[illegible]	+0.3	—
Selective Fund	147.3	[illegible]	+0.4	—
Money Fund	164.6	[illegible]	.....	—
Convertible Fund	176.6	[illegible]	.....	—
Prop. Fd. Ser. 4	208.8	[illegible]	.....	—
Equity Ser. 4	54.9	57.[illegible]	+0.3	—
Man. Ser. 4	196.8	207.[illegible]	+0.2	—
Money Ser. 4	149.3	[illegible]	.....	—
Conv. Ser. 4	149.5	[illegible]	.....	—
Fixed Int. Fd. Ser. 4	113.9	[illegible]	-0.6	—
American Ser. 4	114.2	[illegible]	+0.8	—
High Inc. Ser. 4	116.0	122.[illegible]	+0.8	—
Pension Property	314.1	[illegible]	.....	—
Pension Equity	279.7	[illegible]	+2.1	—
Pension Selective	148.2	156.0	+0.4	—
Pension Managed	288.8	[illegible]	+0.7	—
Pension Security	217.7	[illegible]	.....	—
Pension Fixed Int.	110.1	[illegible]	-0.5	—

Albany Life Assurance Co. Ltd.
31, Old Burlington St., W.1. 01-437 5962

Equity Fd. Acc.	315.5	332.1	.....	—
Fixed Int. Acc.	191.2	201.2	.....	—
Gtd. Money Fd. Ac.	154.4	162.5	.....	—
Intl. Man. Fd. Acm	146.9	154.5	.....	—
Intl. Fxd. Int. Fd.	107.1	112.7	.....	—
Prop. Fd. Acc.	158.2	166.5	.....	—
M'ple Inv. Acc.	248.2	261.3	.....	—
Equity Pen. Fd. Acc.	432.0	454.7	.....	—
Fixed I. Pen. Acc.	303.9	319.8	.....	—
G'td. Mon. Pen. Acc.	212.2	223.3	.....	—
Intl. Mn. PnFdAcc.	170.0	178.9	.....	—
Prop. Pen. Acc.	208.0	218.9	.....	—
M'ple Inv. Pen. Acc.	358.4	377.2	.....	—

AMEV Life Assurance Ltd.
2-6, Prince of Wales Rd., B'mouth. 0202 762122

Managed Fd.	194.7	205.2	.....	—
Money Fd.	142.0	149.5	.....	—
Equity Fd.	152.0	160.2	.....	—
Fixed Int. Fd.	92.4	97.4	.....	—
Property Fd.	146.2	154.1	.....	—
Managed Pen. Fd.	166.9	175.9	.....	—
Equity Pension Fd.	101.4	106.8	.....	—
Fixed Int. Pens. Fd.	118.7	121.5	.....	—
High Yield Pens. Fd.	118.6	125.0	.....	—
Money Pension Fd.	111.0	116.8	.....	—
Property Pension Fd.	109.3	115.2	.....	—
Flexifund	122.0	128.6	.....	—
AMEV/Framlington				
American & Gen. Fd.	142.4	150.0	-0.3	—
Income Fd.	137.9	145.3	+0.5	—
Intl. Growth Fd.	151.7	159.8	+0.6	—
Capital Fund	138.4	145.8	+0.3	—

Barclays Life Assur. Co. Ltd.
252 Romford Rd., E7. 01-534 5544

Barclaybonds	170.5	179.5	+0.3	—
Equity	169.3	178.3	+0.4	—
Gilt-edged	129.8	136.7	-0.3	—
International	108.1	113.8	+0.9	—
Managed	146.9	154.7	+0.2	—
Money	132.9	139.9	.....	—
Property	174.8	184.0	.....	—
Man. Pens. Accum.	172.8	181.9	.....	—
Do. Initial	150.3	158.3	.....	—
Gilt Edg. Pens. Acc.	157.0	165.3	.....	—
Do. Initial	132.2	139.2	.....	—
Money Pens. Acc.	159.4	167.8	.....	—
Do. Initial	135.2	142.4	.....	—

Crown Life—Continued

St. George Mangd. Fd.	108.7	[illegible]	.....	—
Lncs & Gen. Fd.	117.8	[illegible]	.....	—
Sage Fd.	93.6	[illegible]	.....	—
Heritage Fd.	95.3	[illegible]	.....	—
DBS Managed	100.2	[illegible]	.....	—
Crown. Brit. Inv. A		217.[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Mixed. Fd.	141.2	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Mang'd. Acc.	105.4	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Mang'd. Init.	102.4	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Equity Acc.	94.7	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Equity Init.	92.0	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Fxd. Int. Acc.	105.2	110.[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Fxd. Int. Init.	102.2	107.[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Money Acc.	106.5	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Money Init.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—

Crusader Insurance PLC
Tower Hse, 38 Trinity Sq, EC3N 4DJ 488 2323

Growth Prop April 16	104.1	114.4	.....	—
Managed Pens Apr 14	112.11	118.10	.....	—

Eagle Star Insur./Midland Assur.
1, Threadneedle St., EC2. 01-588 1212

Eagle/Mid. Units	75.2	78.0	+0.3	6.28

Equity & Law Life Ass. Soc. Ltd.
Amersham Road, High Wycombe. 0494 33377

UK Equities Fund	183.3	192.9	+0.3	—
Higher Inc. Fund	117.9	124.1	-0.1	—
Property Fund	188.1	197.9	.....	—
Fixed Interest Fund	136.2	143.3	-0.3	—
Index Linked Secs Fnd.	93.1	97.9	-0.1	—
Gtd. Deposit Fund	133.7	140.7	.....	—
Nth. America Fund	108.3	114.0	+1.3	—
Far East Fund	84.3	88.7	+0.8	—
International Fund	99.2	104.4	+0.9	—
Mixed Fund	162.9	171.4	+0.2	—

Equity & Law (Managed Funds) Ltd.
Amersham Road, High Wycombe. 0494 33377

Ind. Pen. Equity	178.5	187.8	.....	—
Ind. Pen. Property	141.7	149.1	.....	—
Ind. Pen. Fixed Int.	131.9	138.8	.....	—
Ind. Pen. Indx Lk. Scs.	103.1	108.5	.....	—
Ind. Pen. Overseas	146.5	154.1	.....	—
Ind. Pen. Cash	132.9	139.8	.....	—
Ind. Pen. Balanced	146.9	154.6	.....	—
Ind. Pen. Dep. Admin.	132.6	139.5	.....	—

Prices at April 15. Next settlement May 13.
Group Pension Funds—Prices Available On Request.

Family Assurance Society
68, East Street, Horsham. 0403 50255

Family A. Managed	164.1	167.5	.....	—
Family B. Managed	87.5	89.3	.....	—
Family C. Brit.	72.7	74.1	.....	—
Family D. Fixed Int.	107.8	110.0	.....	—
Family Capital Mngd.	88.3	90.2	.....	—
Family Brit. II	53.2	54.3	.....	—

G.T. Management Ltd.
16, Finsbury Circus, London, EC2M 7DJ.
01-628 8131.

G.T. Plan Bond Fund	99.4	104.7	+0.3	—
GT Pln High Yld Fnd.	93.8	98.8	+0.8	—
GT Plan Far East Fnd	88.5	93.2	+1.9	—
GT Pln N Am Fund	100.2	105.5	+1.0	—
GT Pln UK&G.E. Fnd	96.3	101.4	+1.2	—
GT Pln Wrldwde Fnd.	90.3	95.1	+0.9	—
GT Pension Bnd Fnd.	98.7	103.9	+0.2	—
GT Pen High Yld Fd.	98.2	103.4	+0.9	—
GT Pen Far East Fd.	88.9	93.6	+1.8	—
GT Pen N. Am. Fd.	103.4	108.9	+1.2	—
GT Pen UK & G.E. Fd.	98.1	103.3	+1.2	—
GT Pen Worldwide Fd.	90.6	95.4	+0.9	—

Life Assur. Co. of Pennsylvania
8, New Rd., Chatham, Kent. Medway 812348

LACOP Units	11.72	12.31	.....	—

Lloyds Life Assurance
20, Clifton St., EC2A 4HX 01-920 0202

Multi Gwth. April 6	[illegible]	—	.....	—
Op. 8 Prop. April 22	[illegible]	234.[illegible]	.....	—
Op. 8 Equity April 22	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Op. 8 Hy. April 22	[illegible]	199.[illegible]	.....	—
Op. 8 Man. April 22	[illegible]	239.[illegible]	.....	—
Op. 8 Dep. April 22	[illegible]	175.[illegible]	.....	—
Op. Inm. April 22	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Op. 8 Inc Dist Apr 22	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Op. (o M April 22	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
U.S SF.I. April 22	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
O & G Prp Fd April 22	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Pr. April 15	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Pr. Cp. April 15	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Eq. Ac. April 15	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Eq. Cp. April 15	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Fxd. Ac. Apr	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Fxd. Cp. Apr	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Mng. Ac. Apr	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Mng. Cp. April	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Dp. Ac. April 15	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pens. Dp. Cp. April 15	[illegible]	190.[illegible]	.....	—
Britannia Funds—Series A				
Am. Smlr. Co's April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Am. Spec. Sits. April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Commodity April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Extra Inc. April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Far East April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Fin. Secs. April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Gold & Gen. April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Growth April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Inc. & Growth April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Int. Growth April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Japan Pref. April 21	[illegible]	77.[illegible]	.....	—
Minerals April 21	[illegible]	67.[illegible]	.....	—
Nat. Hn. Inc. April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Prop. Shd. April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Sp. Mkt. Sits. April 21	[illegible]	95.[illegible]	.....	—
Recovery April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Ca. Tst. April 21	[illegible]	110.[illegible]	.....	—
Univ. April 21	[illegible]	65.[illegible]	.....	—
World Tech. April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Man. Growth April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Gilt Dec. April 21	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—

Planned Savings Group
68, East Street, Horsham 0403 50255

1st Managed	70.8	75.3	.....	—
1st Fixed Interest	80.6	85.7	.....	—
4th Managed	56.9	60.6	.....	—
5th Managed	68.6	73.0	.....	—
Pension Managed	71.2	75.8	.....	—

Premium Life Assurance Co. Ltd.
Eastchester Hse., Haywards Heath, 0444 58721

American Tech. Fd.	106.0	112.0	+2.0	—
Building Soc. Fd.	105.0	111.0	.....	—
Balanced	110.0	116.0	+1.0	—
Data Mangd. Fd.	90.0	95.0	+2.0	—
Deposit	109.0	115.0	.....	—
Gilt	110.0	116.0	+1.0	—
Natural Resources	78.0	83.0	+4.0	—
Property	114.0	120.0	.....	—
UK Equity	116.0	123.0	+3.0	—
International Equity	93.0	98.0	.....	—

Prop. Equity & Life Ass. Co.
42 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7AY 01-621 1124

R. Silk Prop. Bond		245.1	.....	—

Property Growth Assur. Co. Ltd.
Leon House, Croydon CR9 1LU. 01-680 0606

Property Fund		279.7	.....	—
Property Fund (A)		273.4	.....	—
Agricultural Fund		1016.7	.....	—
Agric. Fund (A)		994.6	.....	—
Abbey Nat. Fund		215.9	.....	—
Abbey Nat. Fd. (A)		215.1	.....	—
Investment Fund		103.6	.....	—
Investment Fund (A)		102.4	.....	—
Equity Fund		301.7	+2.0	—
Equity Fund (A)		297.3	+2.0	—
Money Fund		191.6	+0.3	—
Money Fund (A)		188.8	+0.3	—
Actuarial Fund		162.0	.....	—
Gilt-edged Fund		147.4	.....	—
Gilt-Edged Fd. (A)		147.4	.....	—
Retire Annuity		318.9	.....	—
Immed. Ann'ty		186.0	.....	—
International Fd.		160.5	.....	—

Prop. Growth Pensions & Annuities Ltd.

All W'ther Ac. Uts.	199.5	210.0	.....	—
Inv. Fd. Uts.		231.4	.....	—
Pension Fd. Uts.		213.3	.....	—
Conv. Pens. Fd.		235.0	.....	—

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
99⅛	96⅝	Treasury 8¼pc '82	98⅜	......	0.34	13.59
98⅜	95⅝	Exch. 9¼pc 1982	98¼	......	9.67	13.56
97⅛	94⅛	Exch. 8¾pc 1983	97	......	9.02	13.28
94	91	Exch. 3pc 1983	93	......	3.23	12.11
99¼	95¾	Treasury 12pc 1983‡‡	98⅞	......	12.14	13.37
97	92⅞	Treasury 9½pc '83	96⅛	......	9.63	12.72
100⅝	96⅞	Exch. 13½pc '83	100¼xd	......	13.49	13.43
96⅛	91⅞	Exch. 10pc 1983	95⅛	......	10.52	13.36
92	87⅜	Funding 5½pc '82-84‡‡	92	......	5.98	10.68
97⅜	91⅞	Exch. 11¼pc 1984	96⅜	......	11.68	13.50
101⅝	96¼	Exchequer 14pc 1984	100⅞xd	......	13.88	13.54
88⅜	81⅛	Exch. 3pc 1984	85	......	3.53	11.01
97⅝	91½	Treasury 12pc 1984	96¾	......	12.41	13.57
104	96¼	Treasury 15pc 1985	102⅛	......	14.69	14.01
97¼	89½	Exch. 12pc Cnv. '85	96	......	12.50	13.69
80½	73½	Treasury 3pc 1985	79½xd	......	3.77	10.96
94⅞	87½	Treasury 11½pc 1985	93⅜	......	12.32	14.11
96½	88⅝	Exch. 12¼pc 1985	95¾xd	......	12.85	13.94
94⅞	86⅛	Exch. 11¾pc '86	93⅜	......	12.59	14.10
76	69	Treasury 3pc 1986	75½xd	......	3.96	10.49
94⅞	86¼	Treasury 12pc '86	93⅜	......	12.86	14.15
89	80⅝	Treasury 8¼pc '84-86‡‡	88¼	......	9.64	12.14
101⅛	91⅞	Exch. 14pc 1986	99¼xd	......	14.04	14.08
103⅞	90	Exch. 13¼pc 1987	97⅛	......	13.65	14.07
99⅜	84⅛	Do. A	96¼	......	13.70	14.18

Five to Fifteen Years

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
82½	73⅞	Funding 6½pc '85-87‡‡	79xd	......	0.22	12.20
68¼	64½	Treasury 3pc 1987	68	......	4.47	11.56
98¼	85⅞	Treas. 12pc 1987	91¾xd	......	13.10	14.24
81½	72½	Treasury 7¾pc '85-88‡‡	80¼	......	9.83	13.08
64	60⅛	Transport 3pc '78-88	63¼	......	4.82	11.74
90¼	79⅞	Treasury 11½pc 1989	89⅛	−⅛	13.20	14.51
66¼	62½	Treasury 5pc '86-89	63¾	......	7.86	12.68
98¼	85⅞	Treasury 13pc 1990‡‡	97	−⅛	13.92	14.42
93¼	85⅝	Exch. 12½pc 1990	92	−⅛	13.77	14.47
79⅜	70⅛	Treasury 8¼pc '87-90‡‡	79	......	10.85	13.12
91⅞	77⅞	Treasury 11¾pc 1991	90⅛	−⅛	13.55	14.46
65	59¼	Funding 5¾pc '87-91‡‡	64	......	9.03	12.64
89⅛	76⅜	Exch. 11pc 1991	83¼	......	13.22	14.28
96⅝	81⅞	Treasury 12¾pc '92‡‡	94¾	......	13.94	14.38
82¼	70	Treasury 10pc 1992	80⅜	......	12.72	14.07
92⅝	80⅞	Exch. 12¼pc '92	90½	......	13.85	14.42
98	88⅝	Exchequer 13½pc '92	95⅞	......	14.27	14.50
95¼	80⅜	Treasury 12½pc '93‡‡	93¼	......	13.93	14.35
61¼	56¼	Funding 6pc 1993‡‡	60⅛	......	9.99	12.72
104	88	Treasury 13¾pc 1993‡‡	95¾xd	......	14.21	14.33
105	91⅝	Treasury 14½pc '94‡‡	103	......	14.39	14.34
101½	86¼	Exchequer 13½pc 1994	94¾xd	+⅛	14.37	14.50
93½	80⅛	Exch. 12½pc 1994	91⅜	......	14.01	14.30
78⅜	66¼	Treasury 9pc '94‡‡	72½xd	......	12.33	13.52
91¼	76½	Treasury 12pc '95	89⅝	......	13.86	14.30
47⅜	42⅝	Gas 3pc '90/95	43¾xd	......	6.85	11.38
82⅛	68½	Exch. 10¼pc 1995	80⅛	......	13.23	14.04
99⅜	83¼	Treasury 12¾pc '95‡‡	91¼xd	......	13.88	14.10
103½	86¼	Treas. 14pc '96	101¼	......	14.34	14.30
74⅝	66⅝	Treasury 9pc '92/96‡‡	72¾	......	12.55	13.57
114⅞	73	Treasury 15¼pc '96‡‡	105½xd	......	14.41	14.28
102⅞	86	Exchequer 13¼pc '96‡‡	94½xd	......	13.92	14.05
47	43⅝	Redemption 3pc 1986-96	44½	......	6.70	10.63
100½	83½	Treasury 13¼pc '97‡‡	98	......	14.01	14.11
83¼	69⅝	Exchequer 10½pc 1997	81⅛	......	13.25	13.81

Over Fifteen Years

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
73⅛	64	Treasury 8¾pc 1997‡‡	71	......	12.56	13.46
110⅞	94¼	Exch. 15pc 1997	104¼xd	......	14.38	14.30
64	54½	Treasury 6¾pc '95-98‡‡	58¾xd	......	11.47	12.88
111⅛	99½	Treas. 15½pc '98‡‡	108¼	......	14.40	14.27
94¼	78¼	Exch. 12pc 1998	86⅝xd	......	13.73	13.97
78½	66	Treasury 9½pc 1999‡‡	76½	......	12.86	13.45
91⅞	81⅛	Exch. 12¼pc 1999	89½	−⅛	13.85	14.04
85⅜	71⅛	Treasury 10½pc 1999	78⅜xd	......	13.28	13.72
99⅝	82¼	Treas. 13pc 2000	97⅜	......	13.87	13.95
107	89	Treas. 14pc '98-01	98xd	−⅛	14.14	14.17
92⅞	76½	Exch. 12pc '99-02	90¼	−⅛	13.77	13.91
103⅞	85⅞	Treas. 13¾pc 2000-03	101¼	......	14.06	14.06
88⅞	78¼	Treasury 11½pc '01-04	86¼	......	13.52	13.65
38	33¼	Funding 3½pc '99-04	35¾	......	10.07	11.91
99⅜	81⅝	Treasury 12½pc '03-05	90½xd	......	13.68	13.74
67⅞	59¾	Treasury 8pc '02-06‡‡	64¼	......	12.45	12.80
92¼	75⅞	Treasury 11¾pc 03-07	89½	−⅛	13.59	13.65
102	90	Treas. 13½pc '04-08	99⅛	......	13.78	13.78
49⅝	44¼	Treasury 5½pc '08-12‡‡	47½	......	11.75	12.14
66	55⅝	Treasury 7¾pc '12-15‡‡	64	......	12.48	12.61
98	81⅛	Exch. 12pc '13-'17	95¼	......	13.21	13.22

Undated

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
32⅛	27⅜	Consols 4pc	31¼	......	13.29	—
30¼	26⅛	War Loan 3½pc‡‡	29	......	12.68	—
34¼	31½	Conv. 3½pc '61 Aft.	32¼	......	11.01	—
23⅝	21	Treasury 3pc 66 Aft.	23	......	13.14	—
20¼	17¾	Consols 2½pc	19¾	......	12.75	—
20	17⅝	Treasury 2½pc	19¼	......	13.10	—

Index-Linked & Variable Rate

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
100⅛	98⅝	Treas. Variable '82§§	100	......	13.70	13.12
100	99⅜	Do. Variable '83§§	100xd	......	14.40	13.77
49⅞	47½	Do. 2pc I.L. '88 (£50pd)	49¼	......	2.07	2.57
106	93	Do. 2pc I.L. '96	99	......	2.32	2.89
101½	86⅜	Do. 2pc I.L. '06	94	......	2.36	2.76
104	90	Do. 2½pc I.L. 2011	96	......	2.62	2.74

INT. BANK AND O'SEAS GOVT. STERLING ISSUES

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
98½	92¾	Finland 14½pc Ln 1986	97¼	−¼	14.83	15.26
97¼	93½	Int. Bank 5pc '77/82	97¼	......	5.14	13.70
98	90¾	Do. 13½pc Ln 1986	96¾xd	−¼	13.95	14.58
29½	27½	Do. 14pc Ln. '87 (£30pd)	28½	−¼	14.21	14.46
101¾	94⅞	Mex 16½pc 2008	98½	−½	17.20	17.53
97½	90¾	Sweden 13½pc 1986	96¾xd	−¼	13.95	14.58

CORPORATION LOANS

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
92½	85	Bath 11¼pc 1985	91	......	12.36	14.57
96¼	89⅞	Birm'ham 12½pc 1985	94½	......	13.23	14.71
99¾	87	Burnley 13pc 1987	98	......	13.98	14.98
90	81¾	Cardiff 11pc 1986	88½	......	12.43	14.56
99¾	98⅝	G.L.C. 12½pc '82	99½	......	6.54	0.55
98¼	94¾	Do. 12½pc 1983	97¾	......	12.79	14.45
97⅝	94¾	Glasgow 9¼pc '80-82	97⅝	......	9.49	13.98
76½	67½	Herts 6½pc 1985-87	75¼xd	......	9.14	13.89
98	85	Leeds 13½pc 2006	92xd	......	14.78	14.82
93	87½	Liverpool 9¾pc '80-84	92	......	10.60	14.35
24¼	21½	D. 3½pc Irred.	23¼xd	......	15.44	—
99½	95½	Lon. Corp. 13¼pc '83	98½	......	13.45	14.34
90	82¼	Do. 9¼pc '84-85	88	......	10.51	13.70
85¼	78¾	LCC 5½pc '82-84	84	......	6.55	14.05
72¾	64¼	Do. 5½pc '85-87	70	......	8.08	14.52
66½	56	Do 6¾pc '88-90	64	......	10.85	14.87
22¼	19½	Do. 3pc '20 Aft.	20¾	......	15.02	—
96½	90¼	Sunderland 12¼pc 1984	95¼	......	12.85	14.41

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
91½	85¼	Aust. 6pc 1981-83	91½	......	6.75	13.66
65¾	57	N.Z. 7¼pc 1988-92	65	−¼	11.54	14.27
84	74¾	Do. 7½pc '83-86	83½	−¼	9.27	13.65
158	136	S. Rhod. 2½pc Non-Ass.	158	+5	—	—
66	58	Do. 3½pc 80-85 Asstd	65		5.48	17.80
41	32	Do. 4½pc 87-92 Asstd.	40xd		11.25	17.50
372	318	Zimbabwe Ann (£100pa)	360xd	+10	—	19.55

LOANS

Public Board and Ind.

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
66	57¾	Agric. Mt. 5pc '59-89	58¼	......	8.73	14.86
29	24¾	Met. Wtr. 3pc 'B'	28¼	......	10.76	13.26
112	103	U.S.M.C. 9pc 1982	112	......	8.31	—
100½	94	Do. without Warnts.	100½	......	9.30	—

LOANS—Continued

Financial

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
100	95½	FFI 14pc '83	98¾	......	14.18	14.83
97	94	FFI/UK Fst5½pc Db. '80-2	97xd	......	5.67	13.90
86	80	Do. 6¼pc Db. '81-84	83½xd	......	7.45	13.96
93	82½	Do. 10½pc Uns.Ln. '86	91½	......	11.47	14.75
90	78	Do. 11pc Uns.Ln. '88	89	......	12.84	14.10
91	78	Do. 11¾pc Uns.Ln. '90	89	......	13.20	15.00
90	82	Do 12½pc Un. Ln. 1992	88½xd	......	14.12	14.75
64½	54	Do. 7¼pc A Deb. '89-92	63	......	12.00	14.72
60	53	Do. 7¼pc A Deb. '91-94	59xd	......	12.28	14.40
70	62	Do. 9pc 'A' '91-94	68½xd	......	13.33	14.78
67½	57⅞	Do. 8¾pc Ln. '92-97	66xd	......	13.81	14.90

Building Societies

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
100½	98⅛	Nat'wide 14¾pc 11.8.82	100	......	14.75	14.48
100½	98¾	Do. 14¾pc 25.8.82	100	......	14.75	14.53
101	99	Do. 15⅜pc 29.9.82	100¼	......	15.34	14.53
101⅞	99¼	Do. 16¼pc 27.10.82	100⅞xd	−⅛	16.11	14.30
100⅞	99½	Do. 15⅜pc 24.11.82	100⅞xd	......	15.24	13.76
101	99¼	Do. 15¼pc 13.12.82	100¼	−⅛	15.21	14.86
101½	99¾	Do 16¼pc 17.1.83	101	−⅛	16.09	14.76
101⅛	100	Do. 15⅝pc 7.2.83	100⅝	−¼	15.53	14.76

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Div. % Gross	Red. Yield
85	65	Antofagasta Rly.	82	......	♦10	†13.33
67	35	Do. 5pc Pref.	62	......	♦5	†8.29
98	98	Chilean Mixed	98	......	3	†3.10
16	14	Chinese 4½pc 1898	14	......	—	—
13	11	Do. 5pc 1912	11½	......	—	—
12	9	Do. 5pc 1913	9	......	—	—
10½	8	Do. 5pc '25 Boxer	0	......	—	—
44	42	Greek 7pc Ass.	42	......	3½	†8.41
42	40	Do. 6pc 28 Stb. Ass	40	......	3	†7.50
35	35	Do 4pc Mixed Ass.	35	......	2	†5.77
35	30	Hung. '24 Ass.	33	......	2¼	†9.02
102¼	87½	Hydro Quebec 15pc Ln 2011	101½	......	15	15.69
67	58	Iceland 6½pc '83-88	67	......	6½	15.20
93	80	Do. 14½pc Ln. 2016	91	......	14½	16.52
95½	87¼	Ireland 7½pc '81-83	95¼	......	7½	13.70
72¼	62½	Do. 9¾pc '91-96	70½	−¼	9¾	15.03
250	233	Japan 4pc '10 Ass	250	......	—	—
77	67	Do. 6pc '83-88	68	......	6	13.13
161	161	Peru Ass. 2007	161	......	3.22	17.52
93¼	79½	Pet. Mx 14½pc '06	81½xd	−½	14½	10.07
S79	S75	Turin 9pc 1991	S75	......	9	†12.00
DM90	DM87	Turin 6½pc 1984	DM87	......	6½	11.60

AMERICANS

1982 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Div. Gross	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
17¼	13½	Abbott Labs.‖	17¼xd	+⅜	84c	—	2.7
14¾	11⅞	Alcoa $1	14	......	$1.80	—	7.1
25⅛	13¾	Amax $1	15	......	60c	—	2.2
15⅜	10⅝	Amdahl	11¼	−⅛	40c	—	2.0
28⅝	21⅛	Amer. Express $0.60	28⅛	+⅛	$2.20	—	4.4
13⅝	10¾	Amer. Medical Intl $1	13	+⅛	52c	—	2.2
22⅞	17⅛	Amer. Nat. Res. $1	19¾	+⅛	$3.00	—	8.6
32⅛	28	American T. & T. Co.	31⅞	+¼	$5.40	—	8.9

[illegible]

CANADIANS

[illegible]

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

[illegible]

BANKS & H.P.—Cont.

[illegible]

Hire Purchase, etc.

[illegible]

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

[illegible]

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS—Cont.

[illegible]

DRAPERY AND STORES

[illegible]

ELECTRICALS

[illegible]

ENGINEERING MACHINE TOOLS

[illegible]

ENGINEERING—Continued

[illegible]

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

[illegible]

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

[illegible]

HOTELS AND CATERERS

[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

1982 High	1982 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's	P/E
185	137	Jardine M. SHK5	168	......	†Q92c	ϕ	5.4	ϕ
49	36	Jenks & Cattell.	36	−2	1.0	—	4.0	0.1
242	187	Johnson Clnrs...	199	......	7.7	ϕ	5.5	ϕ
295	245	Johnson Mthy. £1	260	......	9.5	2.3	5.2	(9.6)
80	64	Jourdan (T.) 10p.	72	......	5.25	0.6	10.4	(25.2)
48	40	Kalamazoo 10p	46xd	......	2.5	8.9	7.8	21.3
170	135	Kelsey Inds.......	160	......	8.0	2.1	7.1	9.2
152	138	Kennedy Sm. 10p	138	......	†4.38	4.1	4.5	7.3
310	253	Kershaw (A.) 5p..	270	......	21.75	0.5	11.5	(18.3)
51	41	Kleen-E-Ze Hldgs.	46	−3	5.5	8.7	17.1	(11.8)
66	54	L.C.P. Hlds	56	......	4.3	0.8	11.0	(17.1)
51½	39½	L.R.C. Int. 10p.	50½	......	2.5	1.6	7.1	11.4
46	34	Lawtex	34	......	‡1.5	—	‡	—
188	153	Lead Inds. 50p.	176	......	9.66	ϕ	0.1	ϕ
350	277	Lep Group 10p.	345	......	16.5	2.1	6.9	8.0
18	12	Lesney Prods. 5p.	16	+1	—	—	—	—
37	33	Lilleshall 10p...	33	......	3.5	—	15.2	—
50	39	Lon. & Liv. 10p	45	......	†1.7	3.3	5.4	6.7
102	91	London & Midl'd.	92	......	7.75	1.1	12.0	(10.8)
51	36	Lon. & Nthn. Grp.	50	−1	3.75	2.5	10.7	4.3
52	23	♦Lon. Priv. Health	32	......	—	—	—	—
9¼	6	Long Hmbly. 10p.	6½	......	B—	—	—	—
46	36	Longton Inds. ..	40	......	1.0	—	3.6	—
68	33	Lonsdale Unvrsl.	66	......	♦1.0	0.9	2.2	(66.1)
193	108	Low & Bonar 50p	108xd	−2	7.0	ϕ	9.3	ϕ
33½	27	M.Y. Dart. 10p.	27½	......	2.9	1.8	15.1	(4.4)
164	105	M'c'rthy Pii. 20p.	159	+3	7.0	2.8	6.3	7.4
88	70	Macfarlane Gp.	88xd	+2	4.0	ϕ	6.5	ϕ
35	28	Maclellan 20p..	34	......	1.43	1.7	6.0	(12.1)
86	67	Macpherson (D.).	82	......	4.2	1.5	7.3	12.0
62	53	Magnolia Group	59	......	2.3	ϕ	3.7	ϕ
108	95	Man. Ship Can. £1	95	......	—	—	—	—
49	41	Marley	43	−1	2.25	1.5	7.5	(11.4)
35	29	Marling Ind. 10p.	35	......	10.94	3.8	3.8	(9.8)
49	33½	Marshall L'xy. 'A'	44	−3	2.8	ϕ	9.4	ϕ
88	74	Marshall's Univ	82	......	0.1	—	0.2	—
37	28	Martin-Black...	31	......	—	—	—	—
£134	£101	Mathesons 7¼pc..	£110	......	Q7¼%	2.3	†7.3	—
188	170	Maynards	172	......	9.38	2.7	7.8	(5.2)

LEISURE—Continued

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Motors and Cycles

Commercial Vehicles

Components

Garages and Distributors

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

PAPER, PRINTING ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

INSURANCE

LEISURE

PROPERTY—Continued

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHERS

SOUTH AFRICANS

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Investment Trusts

INVESTMENT TRUSTS—Cont.

Finance, Land, etc.

OIL AND GAS

OIL AND GAS—Continued

OVERSEAS TRADERS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

MINES

Central Rand

Eastern Rand

Far West Rand

O.F.S.

Finance

Diamond and Platinum

MINES—Continued

Central African

1982 High	1982 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
120	73	Falcon Rh.50c	90	......	Q25c	18.3	20.7
33	20	Wankie Col. Z$1 .	25	−1	Q3c	1.2	9.5
21	16	Zam.Cpr.SBD0.24..	18	......	—	—	—

Australian

1982 High	1982 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
23	10	ACM 20c...........	23	+3	—	—	—
7	2½	Argosy Gold NL 25c	3	......	—	—	—
151	62	Bond Corp.	78	+8	gQ10c	2.3	8.1
79	63	Bougainville I Kina.	79	+2	Q6½c	1.2	5.0
178	154	CRA 50c	178	−6	Q5c	—	1.7
17	9	Canada Northwest..	9	......	—	—	—
16	10	Carr Boyd 20c.....	14	+1	—	—	—
56	22	Central Pacific	35	......	—	—	—
24½	10	Cultus Pacific N.L...	24½	......	—	—	—
27	14	Eagle Corp. 10c...	23½	+2½	—	—	—
23	14	Endeavour 20c	16½	+½	—	—	—
368	160	G. M. Kalgoorlie 25c	215	+10	Q32½c	0.9	9.2
10	2½	Great Eastern......	3	+½	—	—	—
63	38	Greenbushes Tin 50c	45	+1	Q6c	1.9	8.0
170	134	Hampton Areas 10p	154	+6	2.5	3.1	2.3
32	15	Haoma N.W.	16	+1	—	—	—
22	9	Intl. Mining.......	16	+1	—	—	—
30	10	Jimberlana (50cFP).	13	+1	—	—	—
9½	2¼	Kalbara Min 20c..	4	......	—	—	—
100	60	Kitchener NL 25c	70	......	—	—	—
14	9	Leichardt Expln...	12	......	—	—	—
190	92	Meekatharra 25c..	142	+2	—	—	—
44	16	Metals Ex. 50c ...	25	+4	Q3c	1.7	7.2
28	12	Metramar Mins. 20cts..	26	−2	—	—	—
10	4½	Mid East Mins. NL..	6	......	—	—	—
190	145	M.I.M. Hldgs. 50c..	186	+6	tQ5c	ϕ	1.6
57	10	Mincorp 20c.......	14	......	—	—	—
8	4	Minefields Expl 25c.	4	−1	—	—	—
18	14	Newmetal 20c.....	17	......	—	—	—
30	8½	Nickelore N.L.	14½	+1	—	—	—
160	110	North B. Hill 50c.	127	+7	‡Q18c	1.8	‡
*84	15	Nth. Kalgurli	23	+2	—	—	—
123	67	Oakbridge 50c.....	80	+10	tQ6½c	1.9	5.0
90	35	Otter N. L.	35	......	—	—	—
98	56	Pacific Copper.....	60	+2	—	—	—
150	93	Pancont'l 25c......	102	+4	—	—	—
62	40	Paringa M&Ex.5p ..	40	......	ϕ—	—	—
352	268	Peko-Wallsend 50c.	292	+22	‡Q15c	—	‡
31½	16½	Pelsart Res NL....	20½	+2	—	—	—
273	138	Renison 50c	164	+8	2Q5c	—	1.8
205	105	Do. Dfd.	135	......	—	—	—
56	34	Seltrust A.........	50	+2	—	—	—
27	10	Southern Pacific..	14	......	—	—	—
45	24	Swan Resources 20c.	45	+10	—	—	—
65	35	Vultan Mins 20c..	42	......	—	—	—
11	4	West Coast 25c ...	7	......	—	—	—
50	10	Westn. Conl 50c..	10	......	—	—	—
247	200	Westn. Mining 50c.	240	+11	‡Q14c	1.6	‡
34	16	Whim Creek 20c..	23	......	—	—	—
30	12	York Resources ...	27	......	—	—	—

Tins

1982 High	1982 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
17½	7	Amal Nigeria 1p..	7	......	—	—	—
255	200	Ayer Hitam $M1 .	210	+5	‡Q135c	[illegible]	‡
140	95	Geevor	95	......	—	—	—
12	10	Gold & Base 12½p..	12	......	—	—	—
630	440	Gopeng Cons.	440	−5	17.0	1.9	5.6
525	330	Hongkong.........	425	......	21.0	ϕ	7.1
155	153	Idris 10p	155#	......	♦‡9.0	[illegible]	‡
24	16	Jantar 12½p.......	16	......	t1.5	4.8	13.4
130	80	Kamunting $M0.50.	90	......	†Q27½c	0.8	7.3
710	610	Killinghall $M1 ...	660	......	Q100c	ϕ	3.6
98	60	Malaysia Mng. 10c.	69	......	Q25c	1.1	8.6
42	30	Pahang	32	......	‡0.63	[illegible]	‡
450	280	Pengkalen 10p ...	280	−5	3.5	—	1.8
330	245	Petaling $M1......	245	......	Q60c	ϕ	5.8
200	155	Sungei Besi $M1.	180	......	‡Q310c	1.1	‡
110	75	Supreme Corp. $M1.	75	......	gQ15½c	ϕ	5.0
110	100	Tanjong 15p	102	......	3.5	1.7	4.9
85	70	Tongkah H. Tin $Sm	78	......	‡Q25%	1.3	‡
255	195	Tronoh $M1	205	......	‡Q110c	1.3	‡

Copper

1982 High	1982 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
325	195	Messina R0.50 ...	220	......	Q60c	5.2	14.5

Miscellaneous

1982 High	1982 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
40	20	Anglo-Dominion ..	23	−2	—	—	—
16½	13	Burma Mines 10p	16	......	0.55	ϕ	5.1
130	35	Colby Res. Corp. ..	60	......	—	—	—
292	210	Cons. Murch. 10c..	290	+10	Q60c	1.9	13.9
8	5½	‡‡Explaura Gold..	6	......	—	—	—
105	65	Highwood Res.	65	......	—	—	—
255	165	Northgate C$1	210	......	—	—	—
468	412	R.T.Z.	440	......	16.0	q2.1	5.3
£106½	£93½	Do.9⅞%Cv.Ln.95-2000	£101½	−½	Q9⅞%	ϕ	f9.6
20	12	Sabina Inds. C$1..	16	......	—	—	—
44	27	✝Southwest C. 10p.	41	......	—	—	—
500	270	Tara Exptn. $1....	345	+15	—	—	—

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures. P/Es are calculated on "net" distribution basis, earnings per share being computed on profit after taxation and unrelieved ACT where applicable; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution; this compares gross dividend costs to profit after taxation, excluding exceptional profits/losses but including estimated extent of offsettable ACT. Yields are based on middle prices, are gross, adjusted to ACT of 30 per cent and allow for value of declared distribution and rights.

- ● "Tap" Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents on application.
- ϕ Figures or report awaited.
- ✝ USM; not listed on Stock Exchange and company not subjected to same degree of regulation as listed securities.
- †† Dealt in under Rule 163(3).
- # Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividend or forecast.
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ♣ Not comparable.
- ♦ Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- § Forecast dividend; cover on earnings updated by latest interim statement.
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ★ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ‖ No par value
- §§ Yield based on assumption Treasury Bill Rate stays unchanged until maturity of stock.

a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. n Rights issue pending. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. x Dividend cover in excess of 100 times. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Minimum tender price. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1983-84. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1982. K Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1981-82. M Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1983. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1982-83. P Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1982. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. Z Dividend total to date. Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xd ex capital distribution.

REGIONAL MARKETS

The following is a selection of London quotations of shares previously listed only in regional markets. Prices of Irish issues, most of which are not officially listed in London, are as quoted on the Irish exchange.

Stock	Price	+ or −	IRISH	Price	+ or −
Albany Inv. 20p	40	......	Conv. 9% '80/82	£96¼	......
Bertrams	17#	......	Nat. 9¾% 84/89	£69	......
Bdg'wtr. Est. 50p	410	+10	Fin. 13% 97/02	£72¼	+⅛
Craig & Rose £1	£12¾	......	Alliance Gas	70	......
Finlay Pkg. 5p	29	......	Arnott	220	+5
Graig Ship. £1	£22	......	Carroll (P.J.)	72	......
Higsons Brew	70	......	Concrete Prods.	90	......
Holt (Jos) 25p	575	+5	Helton (Hldgs.)	20	+2½
I.O.M. Stm. £1	125	......	Irish Ropes	36	......
Pearce (C. H.)	£21¼	......	Jacob	70xd	......
Peel Hldgs.	145	......	T.M.G.	7	−1
Sheff. Refrshmt	75	−2	Unidare	44	......
Sindall (Wm.)	205	......			

OPTIONS

3-month Call Rates

Industrials					
		House of Fraser	15	Utd. Drapery	7
Allied-Lyons	0	I.C.I.	24	Vickers	16
BOC Intl.	15	"Imps"	8	Woolworths	5
B.S.R.	8½	I.C.L.	5½		
Babcock	20	Ladbroke	15	**Property**	
Barclays Bank	42	Legal & Gen.	19	Brit. Land	7½
Beecham	21	Lex Service	10	Cap. Counties	10
Blue Circle	48	Lloyds Bank	42	Land Secs.	20
Boots	19	"Lots"	6½	MEPC	20
Bowaters	24	London Brick	7	Peachey	14
Brit. Aerospace	17	Lucas Inds.	20	Samuel Props.	11
B.A.T.	38	"Mams"	12	Town & City	3½
Brown (J.)	7	Mrks. & Spncr	12		
Burton Ord.	15	Midland Bank	30	**Oils**	
Cadburys	9	N.E.I.	9	Brit. Petroleum	26
Courtaulds	0	Nat. West. Bank	38	Burmah Oil	10
Debenhams	7	P & O Dfd.	14	Charterhall	6
Distillers	15	Plessey	32	KCA	14
Dunlop	6½	Racal Elect.	35	Premier	6
Eagle Star	31	R.H.M.	6½	Shell	30
F.N.F.C.	4	Rank Org. Ord.	20	Tricentrol	22
Gen. Accident	20	Reed Intnl.	26	Ultramar	38
Gen. Electric	65	Sears	6		
Glaxo	42	Tesco	5½	**Mines**	
Grand Met.	17	Thorn EMI	42	Charter Cons.	25
G.U.S. 'A'	45	Trust Houses	11	Cons. Gold	45
Guardian	25	Tube Invest.	13	Lonrho	7
G.K.N.	15	Turner & Newall.	11	Rio T. Zinc	42
Hawker Sidd.	30	Unilever	55		

A selection of Options traded is given on the London Stock Exchange Report page

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 24

This service is available to every Company dealt in on Stock Exchanges throughout the United Kingdom for a fee of £600 per annum for each security

FINANCIAL TIMES

Saturday April 24 1982

MAN IN THE NEWS

The IBA's cultured buccaneer

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER

JOHN WHITNEY made his first radio programme at the age of 17. By 21 he had his own production company supplying the teenyboppers' station, Radio Luxembourg. In the course of the past 30 years he has moved from radio, to television, and back to radio. For most of that time self-employed and financially successful, Mr Whitney has been one of the buccaneers of British commercial broadcasting.

This week the poacher has been appointed gamekeeper. The hustling programme-maker was the outsider chosen to become the next director-general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, responsible for the administration and control of an industry with an annual revenue of some £700m. He takes over in November from Sir Brian Young.

The son of a scientist-inventor and poet, Mr Whitney has inherited something of his

John Whitney

father's double image. This entrepreneurial media man does not brandish large cigars, nor pepper his conversation with talk of dollar contracts. As managing director of Capital Radio since 1973 he has brought to populist broadcasting a cultural and social dimension: a job-finding service for London's teenagers, sponsorship of adventure like Operation Drake, and classical music.

Mr Whitney, in sum, is a man of catholic outlook. In private life he enjoys chess (he has reached Level 7 on his talking chess computer) sculpting, and photography. His taste in music is also catholic: he enjoys pop groups like "The Police" and "Queen," likes jazz and classical music. His wife Roma Duncan was a member of the London Festival Ballet, and through Capital Radio he has supported the London Youth Orchestra, the London Choral Society and the Wren Orchestra.

As a member of the Society of Friends, a Quaker, Mr Whitney has long been interested in penal reform and has visited prisoners as a trustee of an organisation called Recidivists Anonymous. That does not mean, he says, that he will be donning the cloak of a moral crusader at the IBA. His outlook, he believes, is one already shared by members of the Authority. As a businessman who has produced, written and sold programmes to the broadcasting contractors, he is in no rush to pronounce on the shortcomings of modern radio and television.

His business career spans virtually the life of independent broadcasting. His first company, Ross Radio Productions, once the largest independent contractor for radio, was knocked sideways by the arrival of commercial television. He moved into the new medium both as writer and producer of series — among them "The Power Game" and "Upstairs Downstairs"—and as innovator. He was founder chairman of Autocue, bought as a bankrupt business in the U.S. for $5,000, and now marketing television prompt systems in 40 countries.

In the mid-1960s, Mr Whitney turned his attention again to radio—"my first love." As chairman and co-founder of the Local Radio Association, he lobbied hard for parliamentary licence for commercial radio.

At 51, John Whitney has reached one of the pinnacles of broadcasting. It will mean a drop in salary and the loss of his outside business interest. But the radio and TV companies, as they look forward to the era of cable and satellite transmission, can scarcely complain that the new director general of the IBA does not understand them.

If they are to be nudged from their accustomed paths by the IBA, it will be by a man whose cultured, Reithian instincts are tempered by a lifetime's experience on the cutting room floor.

Prudential puts £45m complex up for sale

BY MICHAEL CASSELL

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE, the leading investor in UK commercial property, is trying to sell one of its most valuable properties.

The group wants to sell, for about £45m, its freehold interest in Central Cross, the 229,000 sq ft office-and-shops complex in Tottenham Court Road, London. The building ranks sixth in value in the £2.5bn property-investment portfolio held by Prudential life-funds.

Central Cross, generally not considered one of the best examples of modern London office developments, was built in the late-1970s as headquarters for EMI. Prudential developed the scheme in conjunction with Thorn-EMI and funded it with £30m.

EMI'S later financial problems halted the move. EMI was left with a 35-year lease which can be extended to 140 years. Most of the floorspace has been sub-let by EMI, which pays an annual rent of more than £2.5m to Prudential.

The principal office tenants are the oil companies Amoco and Amerada. Rents for sub-tenants are believed to be about £15 a square foot. It is understood about 12,000 sq ft of office floorspace is vacant.

Mr Peter Green, Prudential's joint chief surveyor, said that although the disposal would represent a substantial sale it meant no more than fine-tuning in the context of the group's total property investments.

Prudential, alone or in partnership, is involved in UK development projects costing about £200m.

Mr Green said Central Cross was not the best property in the life-fund's portfolio. It had been selected for sale as a successfully-completed development which ought to be readily-marketable because of the shortage of similar-sized buildings in improving West End locations.

He said the funds raised would be used to upgrade existing property and to purchase and develop new properties.

Civil servants offered pay rises of up to 6.25%

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT'S intention to make Civil Service pay reflect more closely the impact of market forces suffered a setback yesterday when an arbitration tribunal significantly improved the size and the shape of this year's pay offer to 530,000 white-collar civil servants.

The tribunal's award of increases ranging from 4.75 to 6.25 per cent is subject to parliamentary approval, under the terms of the agreement which ended the 21 weeks of damaging strikes in the Civil Service last year over pay.

While the initial reaction of Treasury pay officials was tentative, overall acceptance of the award by the Government seems likely. It is understood that the Government was prepared, if necessary, to accept an award as high as 8 per cent.

The Government is unlikely to announce its response to the award much before the end of next week. The Cabinet may well use the award to help it to decide what to do over reports on top salaried and armed forces' pay, which are thought to recommend increases substantially higher.

The Council of Civil Service Unions yesterday accepted the award, though it agreed it fell "far short" of its original claim for 13 per cent. Union leaders were particularly pleased with the tribunal's findings on its annual leave claim, which they said gave them about 90 per cent of what they had been seeking.

The terms of the award are such that union activists would find it difficult to mount a case against it. But union leaders acknowledge the possibility of unofficial industrial action.

The Government hopes that the longer-term inquiry into Civil Service pay, chaired by Sir John Megaw, will support its argument to apply market forces more directly when it delivers its report in the summer.

Its original and complex range of pay offers of 0-5½ per cent to some extent preempted the Megaw inquiry by being designed to reflect the ease of recruitment and retention of staff at a time of high unemployment.

The award of the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal, chaired by Mr David Calcutt, QC, goes some way towards undercutting the market forces political philosophy behind the original offer. By increasing all the offers, the award proposes much greater payments than the Government believes necessary to get and keep staff.

By increasing the cost of the award to about £235m from the original £170m offer, the tribunal may have undercut further the market forces argument by leaving little money available to find special allowances for such hard-to-keep staff as computer operators.

However, the overall shape of the offer—different pay rates for staff with longer experience —has been maintained.

In its overall size, too—put by the Treasury at 5.9 per cent, although by the unions at 6.5 per cent, including annual leave —the award is lower than many recent settlements, including a 7 per cent deal agreed yesterday for postal workers.

Markheath Securities seeks full SE listing

By Carla Rapoport
By Our Labour Staff

MARKHEATH SECURITIES, a small North London property company which obtained a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market only eight months ago, is set to become the first USM company to move to a full quotation on the London Stock Exchange.

The USM was launched 18 months ago to provide a market for the shares of smaller companies which normally would not qualify for a full listing.

Markheath said yesterday it could have opted last August for a full listing but chose the USM because this required only 10 per cent of its equity to be offered to the public. The company said the USM, however, had not given it the status in the trade it had hoped for.

Mr Paul Bobroff, 30, its chairman, said: "We are coming a little earlier than might have been expected, but if you are successful the movement is inevitable."

The company recorded pre-tax profits of £1.34m for 1981, compared with £1m in 1980.

The Stock Exchange yesterday confirmed it had intended companies to establish a track-record on the USM before moving to a full listing. In Markheath's case it said the company joined the USM with a suitable track-record for a full listing. This was the first case of its kind.

Markheath's graduation from the USM means the company will not have to buy national newspaper full-page advertisements for its prospectus.

It does not have a merchant banker. Sheppards & Chase, stockbrokers, are advising it. Markheath intends to issue a further £75,000 cumulative convertible preferred shares so that 25 per cent of total issued share capital will be in public hands. A full listing is expected to be granted by April 30.

As of next week about 100 companies will be trading on the USM. Their combined market capitalisation will be more than £1bn.

Details, Page 18

Explosives monopoly to be curbed

BY BERNARD SIMON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African Government is to force the mining industry to end its exclusive contracts for the purchase of explosives from AECI, the country's largest chemicals producer, in which ICI and Anglo American Industrial Corporation are equal shareholders.

Dr Dawie De Villiers, the Minister of Industries, said yesterday that the Government has accepted proposals by the Competition Board, an official anti-monopoly watchdog, that restrictive business practices in the explosives industry should be declared unlawful.

The board said in a report that "the effective preclusion of a vast majority of explosives consumers from the right to choose, and awesome barriers confronting new entrants in the industry, have not been justified in the public interest."

AECI accounts for about 98 per cent of the South African explosives market, which is the largest in the world after the U.S. The company's explosives sales totalled R282m (£151.3m) last year, and contributed a quarter of its net trading profits.

The Competition Board was asked to investigate the Chamber of Mines contract two years ago, following complaints by a small local company, National Process Industries, that the agreement prevented it from competing for the business of Chamber of Mines members.

NPI's product, known as Tovex, is a slurry-based explosive manufactured under licence from E. I. Du Pont, the U.S. chemicals company. In contrast, AECI has concentrated on dynamite, made from nitro-glycerine.

Share prices of Hanhill Industries, NPI's parent, rose from 145 cents to 230 cents on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange yesterday.

AECI has conceded that its contracts with the Chamber of Mines, first signed almost 60 years ago, are restrictive. But it argued that they were in the best interests of the mining industry from the point of view of continuity and reliability of supplies.

Continued from Page 1

Britons warned

He added that the Argentines had been extremely surprised by the strength of the international reaction from the UN and Commonwealth, and the EEC, and by the rapid despatch of the British naval task force.

Difficulties still remained, however, over the three points of basic concern to the UK— the arrangements for an Argentine withdrawal, the nature of any interim administration, and the framework for future long-term negotiations.

Argentina was still a long way from abandoning the idea that it could extend its claim to the islands by force.

Mr Pym earlier had a breakfast meeting with Mr William Clark, President Ronald Reagan's National Security Advisor.

AUEW votes for action against Labour left

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

PROSPECTS OF the Labour Party taking direct action to expel groups such as the Militant Tendency moved a step closer yesterday when the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers voted to press for reintroduction of the party's list of proscribed organisations.

Left-wingers at the AUEW national committee voted solidly to oppose the call to reintroduce proscription and attacked the move as a "witch-hunt" of the left.

The union is the second largest affiliated to the Labour Party. Its dominant right-wing was divided on the issue, as union leaders had feared, and six moderate delegates crossed the floor to vote with the left.

This reduced the normal 56-35 political split to 47-41 vote, with the remaining three of the 91 delegates abstaining.

The dissident right-wingers were concerned to maintain party unity but the level of opposition in such a union as the AUEW—a standard-bearer of the trade union right—must pose a threat to moves for bringing back proscription.

The narrowness of the vote in the policy-making national committee of the AUEW—meeting in Eastbourne—is a clear indication that trade union and party right-wingers face a difficult task pushing such a proposal through the party congress.

Delegates also voted overwhelmingly for motions calling for the return of a Labour Government but refused by 58 votes to 32, with one abstention, to support a proposal calling for industrial action to oust the present Government.

This vote was significant because it was the first time in the week's meeting of the national committee that the left had not maintained its rigidly disciplined 35-strong vote. Three delegates either abstained or joined the right.

U.S. price index

Continued from Page 1

The March decline means that the July cost of living increase for the country's 36m social security recipients will be held to 7.4 per cent, against 11.2 per cent last year. The increase, which will cost $11.3bn (£6.4bn) over a year, is calculated on the basis of the inflation rate in the first three months of the year.

Mr Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, said: "All Americans—managers and workers, consumers and savers, young and old—are experiencing the benefits of lower inflation rates."

Meanwhile, Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, rejected Democrat-inspired suggestions of a deal under which the Fed would ease its monetary policy in exchange for approval by Congress of a budget compromise that "substantially" reduced projected deficits.

Smaller deficits would lead to lower interest rates, making a change in monetary policy unnecessary. To be adequate, however, he said, the cuts would have to exceed $100bn—compared with the $56bn in budget savings originally proposed by Mr Reagan and the $80bn currently under consideration by Congress.

"We do not gain anything from having a responsible fiscal policy if we loosen up on monetary policy," he said.

"Without monetary discipline we have no chance of getting rates down and keeping them there. We do not intend to retreat. We intend to do our part."

● OECD consumer prices rose 0.5 per cent in February, compared with 0.7 per cent in January and a 0.9 per cent rise in February 1981. This brought the rate of price increase over the 12 months to February down to 9.1 per cent (compared with 11.2 per cent registered a year earlier)3 and the rise over the past six months to 4 per cent.

Monthly developments in February were influenced by a less-pronounced rise in seasonal food and a marginal decline in retail energy prices. Non-food, non-energy prices continued to moderate broadly in line with the overall consumer price index.

Weather

UK TODAY

Early mist or fog patches, becoming dry with sunny periods. Northern and Western Scotland will be rather cloudy, but mostly dry with sunny intervals.

All areas

Dry, sunny intervals. Max 8-10C (46-50F) in the North, 13-14C (55-57F) in the South.

Outlook: Mainly dry and warm with sunny intervals.

WORLDWIDE

		Y'day midday °C	°F			Y'day midday °C	°F
Ajaccio	F	17	63	L. Ang.†	C	15	59
Algiers	S	19	66	Luxmbg.	F	15	59
Amsdm.	C	8	46	Luxor	C	32	90
Athens	C	14	57	Madrid	S	19	66
Bahrain	C	29	84	Majorca	S	20	68
Barcina.	S	18	64	Malaga	C	19	66
Beirut	S	21	70	Malta	C	15	59
Belfast	C	11	52	M'chstr.	C	10	50
Belgrd.	F	9	48	Melbne.		—	—
Berlin	S	12	54	Mx. C.†		—	—
Biarritz	C	17	63	Miami†	C	17	63
Bmghm.	F	12	54	Milan	F	15	59
Blackpl.	C	10	50	Montrl.†	C	3	37
Bordx.	S	20	68	Moscow	C	8	46
Boulgn.	F	11	52	Munich	S	9	48
Bristol	F	13	55	Nairobi	C	25	77
Brussels	C	14	57	Naples	F	15	59
Budpst.	F	9	48	Nassau		—	—
Cairo	S	26	79	Nwcstl.	S	11	52
Cardiff	F	12	54	N York†	S	6	43
Cas'b'ca	C	18	64	Nice	F	15	59
Cape T.	S	25	77	Nicosia	F	19	66
Chicg.†		—	—	Oporto	S	21	70
Cologne	C	16	61	Oslo	R	6	43
Cpnhgn.	C	7	45	Paris	F	16	61
Corfu	F	14	57	Perth		—	—
Denver†	F	2	36	Prague	F	10	50
Dublin	C	11	52	Reykjvk.	R	4	39
Dbrvnk.	F	11	52	Rhodes	S	16	61
Ednbgh.	S	10	50	Rio J'o†		—	—
Faro	C	17	63	Rome	C	16	61
Florence	F	15	61	Salzbrg	F	10	50
Frankft.	F	15	59	S F'cisc†		—	—
Funchal	S	19	64	S. Moritz		—	—
Geneva	S	14	57	Singapr.	T	28	82
Gibraltar	C	17	63	S'tiago†		—	—
Glasgow	F	11	52	Stckhm.	C	12	54
G'rnsey	S	12	54	Strasbg.	S	16	61
Helsinki	S	9	48	Sydney		—	—
H. Kong	R	21	70	Tangier	C	9	48
Innsbrk.	F	12	54	Tel Aviv	S	21	70
Invrnss.	C	8	46	Tenerife	F	23	73
I.o.Man	F	10	50	Tokyo	S	17	63
Istanbul	F	11	52	Toronto†	C	5	41
Jersey	S	13	55	Tunis	S	17	63
Jo'burg	C	18	64	Valencia	C	19	66
L. Plms.	F	21	70	Venice	S	12	54
Lisbon	S	21	70	Vienna	S	9	48
Locarno	S	15	59	Warsaw	S	7	45
London	F	14	57	Zurich	S	13	55

C—Cloudy. F—Fair. R—Rain. S—Sunny. T—Thunder. † Noon GMT temperatures.

THE LEX COLUMN

Calmer seas for equities

The stock market's attitude to the Falklands Islands crisis has now become rather cool. The trembling is over—for the moment at least—and investors seem able once again to look at matters outside the South Atlantic.

The crisis has entered the market's consciousness and lodged there rather as though it were a conventional long-drawn-out nuisance such as a public sector strike. Ten days ago any outbreak of hostilities whatsoever would have sent prices plunging in circumstances of near panic. It is now quite possible that the sound of gunfire would occasion only minor weakness, provided always that the Royal Navy came out of it well. At the beginning of the week prices rose on the increasing expectation of a diplomatic solution to the Falklands problem; as the week has progressed such an outcome has seemed less likely, but the markets have lost very little ground.

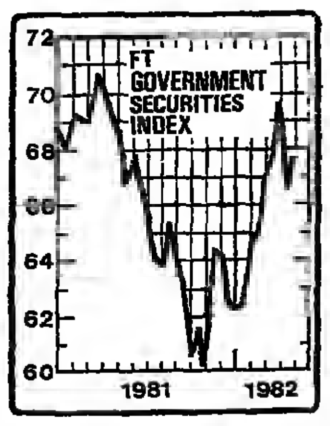
So whereas a week ago the Bank of England had to step into soothe the nerves of the money markets after a very shaky Treasury bill tender, yesterday the bill rate fell a comforting 0.3 points. Interest rates throughout the interbank list are back below 14 per cent, and the 30-Share Index has gained 16.4 points on the week.

This has a lot to do with the perception of the Prime Minister's position. She seems to be more firmly in the saddle of what is admittedly, a very nasty-tempered horse. More tangibly, institutional liquidity is building up nicely, as it does when no one buys very much for a month or so. Fund managers seem to be taking the view that to rush into cash— rather than just holding the normal base level of liquidity— is at least as risky as being fairly fully invested.

Quite large lines of stock — sold apparently by investment trusts undergoing re-organisation — are being placed fairly comfortably. And although companies are not rushing in to do rights issues at the moment, the underwriting of new shares is possible at the right sort of discount, as the provision of a partial cash alternative in the Redland bid for Cawoods showed.

The financial background continues to improve, although the satisfactory figures announced this week had been well discounted for some time. The March retail price index suggests that it is possible the year-on-year increase might squeak below 10 per cent in April. And the actual fall in U.S. consumer prices last month is an important consideration for the London markets; quite apart from the information it gives about deflation worldwide, any help to confidence in the U.S. bond market is good for gilt-edged. Public sector borrowing, too, is well under control in the UK.

Index fell 1.9 to 567.1



The equity market has had plenty more company statements to bite on, which should make it easier to judge the level of economic recovery. The general tenor of chairman's statements remains cautious— ICI is a particularly noteworthy example—and reports of better times are extremely patchy.

But two helpful forces seem to be at work at present. The new rash of stock reductions that broke out last autumn when interest rates rose seems to have been corrected, especially in the last two months of better weather. And the lower level of sterling as well as helping export volume and profits, is improving margins slightly in some domestic markets as import competition becomes less keen.

Dunlop, for example, reported that tyre prices were firming up as some marginal importers withdrew from the market; even if their market share was tiny, their ability to depress prices in general was considerable.

The signs of recovery are tentative, and it is particularly difficult to see how consumer spending is going to increase, given the low level of wage settlements. Of course all these calculations could be upset by bad news from the South Atlantic. The market has not suddenly discovered nerves of steel; it is just under mild sedation.

Markheath

Banners will be out at the Unlisted Securities Market next week to welcome the exchange's one-hundredth member. Amid all the celebrations, the hurried departure plans of one participant might go virtually unnoticed. Markheath Securities is hoping to be the first USM company to make the jump to a full Stock Exchange listing.

Markheath is quitting the market with almost indecent haste. It joined only last August. Since the Stock Exchange's objective is that USM companies should allow a decent pause to elapse before moving up a tier, giving time for a track record to be established, its apparent readiness to accept Markheath so soon is a little puzzling. Only one profits statement has had time to emerge since it joined the USM and the annual accounts will not be posted until the proposed listing date.

Moreover, the Stock Exchange might have wished for a more conventional first candidate. Markheath's only quoted securities are units of 54.6 per cent preferred stock, convertible into ordinary shares on highly unusual terms.

The company is engaged in property development and sports a balance sheet reminiscent of another area. Net tangible assets of £3.3m support secured bank loans of £5.1m. Markheath does, however, expect to move into cash surplus.

The company is issuing the minimum amount of equity necessary to conform with Stock Exchange requirements and has dispensed with such tiresome practices as the retention of a merchant bank of the publication of a new prospectus. It has almost certainly managed to obtain a full listing rather more cheaply than if it had come directly to the Stock Exchange. The expense of advertising a full prospectus, for example, has been obtained.

The option of going straight for a full listing was apparently considered by the company last year.

But there is an obvious danger that the admission of Markheath will set an unfortunate precedent. The last thing the Stock Exchange wants is for the USM to be treated as a cheap staging post on the way to a full listing.